

OIA2026 - 050

Ms Farah Hancock

Via email - Farah.Hancock@rnz.co.nz

Dear Farah

I refer to your requests for information received 15 April 2026, which as advised we are answering under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Question one – Annual KiwiRail Director fees

You requested *'the annual Directors fees for a KiwiRail board member if they were on the board for an entire year.'*

KiwiRail directors' fees are as follows, \$71,130 from 1 January 2025, and \$83,680 from 1 January 2026.

As background, Crown Board fees and increases including for KiwiRail, have already been publicly released by Treasury, and can be found here : [Cabinet Paper APH-24-SUB-0197: Driving Better Crown Company Performance: A Proposal for Crown Board Director Fee Adjustments - November 2024](#).

The information for KiwiRail specifically is found on page 10.

Question two – Fees paid to Scott O'Donnell

You requested that we *'please share the amount Scott O'Donnell was paid for his tenure as a board member.'* Mr O'Donnell was paid \$44,630 gross during his tenure on the KiwiRail Board.

Question three – Number of agenda items per meeting

You asked, *'Roughly how many agenda items are there in a board meeting?'*

We note that there are not as set number of agenda items for each meeting, and the number of agenda items is dependent on a number of factors including how many approvals items are raised with the Board and other matters which arise cyclically or responsively.

For the board meetings Mr O'Donnell attended the number of items ranged from 14 to 18.

We provide below the number of items Mr O'Donnell was recused for (to manage conflicts of interest) or was not present for (as already provided in previous OIA response to you) compared to the number of items for that meeting.



Please note the number of agenda items do not include Board only sessions and Board and Chief Executive only sessions.

Board Meeting	Number of items on the agenda	Items recused from/withheld
September - 2025	15	1
October - 2025	18	5
November - 2025	14	6
December - 2025	15	2
January – 2026 – no meeting		
February - 2026	15	1
March- 2026	16	0

This shows that of a possible 93 agenda items across the six meetings during Mr O'Donnell's tenure, almost 84 per cent of the agendas were participated in. The balance, where Mr O'Donnell was recused, demonstrate standard management of conflicts by KiwiRail and Mr O'Donnell

As this information has been released under the Act, you have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Dave Allard

Senior Government Relations Advisor, KiwiRail

