



Te Kōmihana Uiui a te Karauna mō te
parekura i Ngā Whare Kōrana o Ōtautahi
i te 15 o Poutū-te-rangi 2019

Royal Commission of Inquiry into the
Attack on Christchurch Mosques
on 15 March 2019

First Quarterly Report: April - June 2019

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a high-level summary of activities of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Attack on Christchurch Mosques over its first quarter of activities from April to June 2019. The Royal Commission is required to examine:
 - What relevant State sector agencies knew prior to 15 March 2019, about the activities of the individual charged with offences in relation to the 15 March 2019 attacks on the Al-Noor Mosque and the Linwood Islamic Centre in Christchurch;
 - What actions (if any) relevant State sector agencies took in light of that knowledge;
 - Whether there were any additional measures that relevant State sector agencies could have taken to prevent the attack; and
 - What additional measures should be taken by relevant State sector agencies to prevent such attacks in the future.

Set up phase

2. Key appointments were made during this quarter including:
 - the appointment of the two Commissioners, Sir William Young, in April 2019 and Jacqui Caine in May 2019 by Cabinet; and
 - the appointment of Andrew Butler as Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission in April 2019 and Benesia Smith, MNZM, initially as Establishment Director in April 2019 and then permanently as Director in June 2019 to lead the secretariat for the Royal Commission.
3. The key activities in this first quarter have been:
 - appointment of a small number of staff to assist the establishment of the Royal Commission;
 - development of a set of values to underpin the work of the secretariat and success factors to guide the work of the Royal Commission;
 - development of an initial work programme, scoping of roles to carry out this programme and initiation of a recruitment processes for secretariat staff;
 - establishment of Royal Commission systems and processes including information management and the Royal Commission's website;
 - initial meetings with members of the Christchurch Muslim Liaison Group, and religious leaders from the affected masjidain in Christchurch;
 - invitations to meet with the masjidain committees were made;

- offers to the affected whānau of the 51 shuhada of the attack, and the survivors and witnesses and their whānau to meet with the Royal Commission on their terms;
- announcing the Royal Commission’s intention to establish a Muslim Community Reference Group;
- initial discussions with the wider Christchurch community, including the Mayor of Christchurch and representatives of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Ngāi Tūāhuriri;
- initial discussions with the State sector agencies which are the subject of the inquiry, given the Terms of Reference including the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Government Communications Security Bureau, New Zealand Customs Service, New Zealand Police, New Zealand Security Intelligence Service, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and Ministry of Justice;
- initial discussions with the Privacy Commissioner, Chief Ombudsman, and the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security;
- initial requests for information from relevant State sector agencies; and
- establishing the Royal Commission operational processes, including the publication of three minutes outlining how the Royal Commission will gather information, and evidence and manage confidentiality requirements.

Operational phase

4. The Royal Commission began its operational phase with an invitation to members of the public, community groups and organisations to make submissions from 1 July. In announcing the submissions process, Royal Commission Chair Sir William Young said the Commission wanted to hear from anyone or any group with information related to the Inquiry or who had experiences relevant to the Royal Commission’s Terms of Reference.
5. The closing date for the submissions was set at 31 July.
6. The Royal Commission provided information to affected whānau of the 51 shuhada of the attack, and the survivors and witnesses and their whānau of the attack prior to announcing the submissions process through the Ministry of Social Development and Victims Support. The Royal Commission also repeated initial messages to affected whānau of the 51 shuhada of the attack, and the survivors and witnesses and their whānau of the attack that any engagement with the Royal Commission would be on their terms. Initial request for hui with affected whānau were received at the end of this quarter and the development of a programme of meetings commenced.

Communications

7. The Royal Commission used the set-up phase to communicate its approach to the inquiry and to assure all those who wished to participate could do so in confidence, enabling them to speak freely and frankly. In the first of the Commission’s monthly updates, Sir William said, *“This is a task of the utmost gravity, which will be based on fairness and impartiality and trust and confidence. Our work will be undertaken with respect for all those affected by the attack, as well as the wider Christchurch community and the people of New Zealand.”*

8. The Royal Commission made it clear it intends to publish regular updates on its activities to ensure all of those interested are aware of the Royal Commission's progress. Where possible, the Royal Commission will undertake other communication activity. In doing so, the Royal Commission will be as open as possible about its work but will also have to consider constraints associated with the privacy of individuals, confidentiality issues relating to the activities of and information held by State sector agencies, national security matters, and current court processes in relation to the individual accused of the attack.
9. The Royal Commission published three public updates in this quarter and responded to a number of media enquiries from New Zealand and overseas outlets. Correspondence received by the Royal Commission was responded to.

Financial Summary

10. The financial precis in the table below summarises the life to date "LTD" (rather than year to date) costs of the Royal Commission into four main categories of expenditure as follows:
 - *Operating expenses* which includes expenses including rent, stationary, personal, travel and accommodation, depreciation, capital charge, Department of Internal Affairs overhead, communities' engagement costs including Muslim Community Reference group hui costs;
 - *Legal and financial assistance* which includes applications for legal assistance under section 18 of the Inquiries Act 2013 and applications for financial assistance under section 25 of the Inquiries Act;
 - *Commissioner fees* which includes fees and travel and accommodation costs; and
 - *Capital expenditure* which includes costs relating to the acquisition or maintenance of fixed assets including office and computer equipment, furniture and fixtures, and office fit-out.
11. Original budget figures set by Cabinet were indicative and have not matched the activity and costs associated with the first quarter of the Royal Commission's operations. Within the overall allocation, no funding had been allocated for legal or financial assistance to participants in the Royal Commission's process. Initial work has begun on developing an approach for legal and financial assistance consistent with the Inquiries Act 2013.
12. Lower than expected staff and associated costs are the main driver of the variance between budget and actual costs, with full-time equivalents numbers increasing from 3.7 in April to 6 in May and then 10.5 by the end of the quarter for the establishment phase of the Royal Commission. These costs will increase in the next quarter as staff are recruited and the work programme of the Royal Commission is fully operational.
13. There is an underspend in the Commissioner's fees this quarter due to a timing issue with invoices being processed.

14. Initial capital expenditure on software and computer equipment for personnel spent this quarter.

Table: 1: Financial precis of life to date Royal Commission expenditure (April to June 2019)

Output	LTD ¹ Actual	LTD Budget	LTD Variance	Total Approved Budget
Operating Expenses	0.823	1.740	0.917	6.799
Legal and Financial Assistance	0	0	0	0
Commissioner fees	0.206	0.262	0.056	0.852
Capital expenditure	0.182	0.600	0.418	0.600

Next Quarter – expected activity

15. All secretariat staff are expected to be recruited and operational by mid-next quarter, and the Royal Commission will have completed the establishment process.
16. Benesia Smith, MNZM was appointed to the Executive Director role.
17. The work programme for the Royal Commission and its timeframes will be completed, including a schedule of meetings and external engagements. Evidence gathering will continue.

¹ LTD = Life to date