

Hon Kelvin Davis

MP for Te Tai Tokerau

Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti

Minister of Corrections

Minister of Tourism

Associate Minister of Education



24 September 2020

Chris Roberts
Chief Executive
Tourism Industry Association
chris.roberts@tia.org.nz

Tēnā koe Chris,

Thank you for your letter of 18 August 2020 requesting Government assistance with fee, levy and audit payments for tourism operators. I appreciate your patience while we have been responding to the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19

The International Visitor Levy programme was established to drive long term desired outcomes for tourism and conservation. Projects funded by the IVL will contribute to the long-term sustainability of tourism in New Zealand, by protecting and enhancing our biodiversity, upholding New Zealand's reputation as a world-class experience, and addressing the way critical tourism infrastructure is funded.

It is unsuitable for the payment of fee, levy and audit payments as you outline, as these payments are the responsibility of the operators. Further;

- Variation from the established investment principles would require agreement from Cabinet
- To end June 2020, the revenue from IVL totalled \$57.3m. \$42.4m was assigned to projects from Round One investments made at August 2019, with many projects spanning multiple years.
- The residual funding is being held to progress projects clearly aligned to the funding principles in the coming year.

The Government will continue to assess the situation and whether any further interventions may need to be provided.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelvin Davis".

Hon Kelvin Davis
Minister of Tourism