

29 August 2019

Andrew Crow
fyi-request-10823-61e1268b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Crow

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), received on 26 July 2019. You requested the following:

It has been shown that Air travel is a large contribution to global climate change.

I am keen to get measurements or numbers to show what government is doing about this.

Under OIA I request:

- 1. Total number of airline tickets purchased in 18/19 financial year.*
- 2. Breakdown by domestic vs international.*
- 3. Any internal plans to reduce airline travel.*
- 4. Job titles of the top 5 travellers.*
- 5. Any other information that would help the public understand the departments use of airline travel.*

On 6 August 2019, we sought clarification on your definition of 'tickets' for parts 1 and 4 of your request. On 9 August 2019, you confirmed that:

For both #1 and #4 I am happy for whatever is easiest for you. So long as your response makes it clear about how you have defined it.

Question 1 & 2

I have interpreted "tickets" to mean full return trips including any connections. The table below sets out the number of airline tickets purchased through our travel agent in the 2018/19 financial year.

Domestic tickets	14,893
International tickets	182
Total tickets	15,075

Occasionally a staff member may book air travel directly and have this cost reimbursed by Inland Revenue. As the air travel costs are included along with change fees, baggage fees and other charges under the air travel code, identifying the total number of tickets booked by exception would require manually reviewing each transaction. These exceptions are not material to the total number of flights.

Accordingly, I refuse this part of your request under section 18(f) of the OIA, as a substantial amount of time would be required to review each transaction.

Question 3

Our travel agent, Orbit, currently provides reporting on our air and ground (car rental and airport taxis) kilometres travelled. For the year ended June 2019, Inland Revenue's international air travel reduced by 18% (657,194 kms) from the previous year, however domestic travel increased by 30%, giving a 17% net increase of 2,280,955 kms of air travel.

As part of the All of Government Generation 2 Travel Management Services contract which commenced in June 2019, Orbit has committed to deliver a 30% carbon emission reduction for government agencies over the first three years (Y1 15%, Y2 10%, Y3 5%) with 5% per year thereafter. The contract has the potential to run to 2028 if all Rights of Renewal are invoked – an overall carbon emission reduction on our travel profile of 60% by 2028.

Orbit is currently in the process of developing the full Carbon Emissions reporting as per the new contract requirements in conjunction with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Ministry for the Environment.

Question 4

Below are the job titles of the top five travellers in the 2018/19 financial year based on the number of airline tickets:

- Team Lead
- Group Lead
- Group Manager
- Business Transformation Manager
- Intelligence & Insights Specialist

Question 5

Inland Revenue is currently rolling out a 'Working Smarter' initiative. Working Smarter is an approach to how we work – improvements that can be made to our tools, environments, policies, and processes are all being considered to make sure we work in the smartest way possible. This includes encouraging meetings to be scheduled with virtual meeting options. This ensures that teams are more connected no matter where they are physically located. While we encourage our people to choose virtual options, there are times where travelling will be the most suitable way of working.

Right of review

If you disagree with my decision on your OIA request, you can ask an Inland Revenue review officer to review my decision. To ask for an internal review, please email the Commissioner of Inland Revenue at: CommissionersCorrespondence@ird.govt.nz.

Alternatively, under section 28(3) of the OIA, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision. You can contact the office of the Ombudsman by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Thank you for your request. I trust that the information provided is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Lara Ariell
Chief Financial Officer