



Richard Seager

20 August 2019

Kia ora Richard,

Thank you for email of 2 August, 2019, requesting:

*The total (nautical) miles/kilometres that you flew in the Calendar year 2018 for;*

- *Total Domestic nautical miles or kilometres reclaimable travel as an MP & total one way trips*
- *Total Domestic nautical miles or kilometres for private travel & total one way trips*
- *Total International nautical miles or kilometres reclaimable travel as an MP & total one way trips*
- *Total International nautical miles or kilometres for private travel & total one way trips*

The Official Information Act only applies to information relating to my ministerial duties and work I undertake as a minister. It does not apply to personal or private matters and it does not apply to non-ministerial work or travel undertaken as a Member of Parliament (i.e. in my capacity as Green Party Co-leader), which you have asked for.

However, in the interests of transparency, I am happy to release information about my ministerial air travel for the 2018 calendar year. The sum of my domestic and international ministerial travel during 2018 was 185,867 km.

	<i>Domestic air travel (km)</i>	<i>International air travel (km)</i>
Q1, 2018	10,938	0
Q2, 2018	12,759	17,870
Q3, 2018	14,091	37,576
Q4, 2018	16,159	76,474
<i>Total</i>	<i>53,947</i>	<i>131,920</i>

Please note that this information is only for my travel on Air New Zealand and Star Alliance airlines. The vast majority of my travel is on Air New Zealand and Star Alliance airlines.

I agree with you that minimising air travel is an important way to address climate change, but some travel is inevitable for Members of Parliament and Ministers. It is a vital feature of our democracy that MPs are able to meet people from all parts of Aotearoa New Zealand on a regular basis, face to face. Unfortunately, we do not have high speed, low emissions trains that would enable us to be regularly present in communities and also fulfil our legislative duties in Wellington without flying.

As Minister for Climate Change, I am also expected to represent New Zealand overseas. As a small country, we cannot stop climate change on our own and the most effective way to convince and support larger countries with high emissions to take action, is face to face at United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conferences and negotiations. I am proud of the work Aotearoa New Zealand's officials do in international climate change negotiations, and the contributions they have made to important global achievements like the Paris Agreement.

You will be pleased to know that all my ministerial travel is offset using an accredited carbon offset scheme. Green Party MPs have chosen to offset their travel for some years now and as Minister for Climate Change, I have been working with Parliament's Speaker to explore ways to make this compulsory across all political parties.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon James Shaw