

9 May 2012

Alex Harris
fyi-request-109-92ba365a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Harris

Thank you for your Official Information Act request of 29 March 2012, which was transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs. You asked:

- *How much has been budgeted, across all departments, for the above-mentioned royal visit [by the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall in November 2012]? I would like a breakdown by department, as well as a total.*

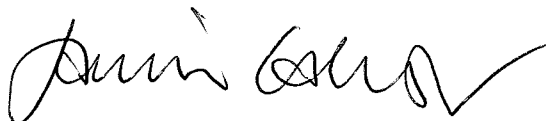
I am withholding this information under sections 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, which protect the confidentiality of advice given by Ministers and officials, and the free and frank expression of opinions by employees of an organisation in the course of their duty.

Public interest

I acknowledge that there is a public interest in disclosure of the withheld information. However, in this instance, I am firmly of the view that the harm that would be done by disclosing such information at this early stage of planning for the Royal visit means that the public interest should not outweigh the need to withhold the information. It is the Department's intention that information about the cost of this Royal tour will be publicly released after the visit has occurred.

If you have any concerns with the decisions referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely



Janice Calvert
General Manager
Ministerial and Secretariat Services

