

# Hon Julie Anne Genter

Minister for Women

Associate Minister of Transport

Associate Minister of Health

Minita mō ngā Wāhine

Minita Tuarua mō ngā Take Waka

Minita Tuarua mō te Manatū Hauora



Rich Seager

[fyi-request-13580-84155af5@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-13580-84155af5@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Rich

Thank you for your email of 24 August 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“Please provide estimates of the total kms travelled by you by the following forms of transportation in the calendar year of 2019.*

*1. Any air transportation (mostly planes I guess) 2. Car 3. Public transport 4. Cycle.*

*Also supplementary if I may. Do you own;*

*a. a bicycle*

*b. an electric bicycle*

*And if you do for how long have you owned these current bikes.”*

The Official Information Act only applies to information relating to my duties and work I undertake as a Minister. It does not apply to personal or private matters and does not apply to non-ministerial work or travel undertaken as a Member of Parliament. The Official Information Act also applies only to information held. Under section 18(g) of the Act there is no obligation to create information not held. Therefore I am refusing to answer the total kilometres travelled via public transport and by bicycle, as the information does not exist. Ownership of personal vehicles is also outside of the Act, however I can reveal that I own five bicycles, one of which is an electric bicycle.

Below is the information I am releasing pertaining to my Ministerial air travel kilometres for the 2019 calendar year. This covers all travel on Air New Zealand and star alliance carriers only. The total kilometres travelled with these carriers (and for which data is available) during 2019 is 57,079 km.

	Domestic air travel(km)	International air travel (km)
Q1, 2019	480	29866
Q2, 2019	6508	0
Q3, 2019	10599	0
Q4, 2019	9626	0

The Department of Internal Affairs have advised me that I have also travelled 1,324 kilometres by car in the 2019 calendar year. This includes all travel in a Crown chauffeur-driven vehicle including trips where I have shared a Crown car with other Ministers. Please note that it does not include travel I have undertaken as a Minister using vehicles not driven by DIA chauffeurs, as that information is not collected.

As I relayed in a previous letter to you, I agree 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

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basis. Unfortunately we do not have high speed, low emissions trains that would enable us to be regularly present in our communities and also fulfil our legislative duties in Wellington without flying.

I am also on occasion expected to represent New Zealand overseas. You will be pleased to know that all of the above travel I undertake as a Minister is offset using an accredited carbon offset scheme.

When travelling locally, I use public or active transport as much as possible, including riding bicycles that I own.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to make a complaint about the withholding of information to the Ombudsman. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsmen at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsmen  
PO Box 10-152  
Wellington

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Anne Genter'.

Hon Julie Anne Genter  
**Associate Minister of Transport**