



**Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Internal Affairs**

21 March 2022

Ministerial and Secretariat Services  
45 Pipitea St  
Thorndon  
PO Box 805, Wellington 6140, New Zealand  
Phone +64 4 495 7200  
[dia.govt.nz](http://dia.govt.nz)

David Barclay  
[fyi-request-18606-fec07138@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-18606-fec07138@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear David Barclay

**Official Information Act request (OIA 2122-0582)**

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 19 February 2022 to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) requesting the following information:

*Please provide a table that shows the year, make, model, mileage, Vehicle Identification Numbers and plate numbers for each vehicle in the Crown car fleet including those used by the Prime Minister and by the Governor-General. Please also specify which of these vehicles are hybrids or EVs.*

**Response to your request**

I am declining your request under section 6(d) in that the making available of that information would be likely to endanger the safety of any person; declining under section 9(2)(a) that withholding of information necessary to protect the privacy of natural individuals (specifically those persons who are entitled users of the Crown fleet); and under section 9(2)(c) to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health and safety of the individuals concerned.

Where section 9 has been relied on, I do not consider that the reason for withholding this information is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make it available.

While your request has been declined, taking on board the spirit of the OIA, I have provided background information on the Crown fleet which you may find useful.

**Background Information**

The Department's VIP Transport (VIPT) manages the Crown fleet which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week across New Zealand. The Crown fleet is made up of chauffeur-driven vehicles, as well as self-drive cars for Ministers and former Prime Ministers as per entitlements under the Ministers' Travel Services within New Zealand Determination 2020 and the Members of Parliament (Former Prime Ministers' Travel Services) Determination 2017.

The VIPT service also organises taxis or other private providers, where Crown fleet vehicles are either not available or practical.

Ministers are the largest group of entitled users of the Crown fleet. Clause 2.1 of the Ministers' Travel Services within New Zealand Determination 2020 (Determination) provides that 'A Minister may use a chauffeur-driven car arranged by VIP Transport at any time for any purpose, at the Minister's discretion'.

Ministers need to travel regularly to fulfil their obligations, and the confidential, chauffeur-driven service allows Ministers to use this time efficiently. Clause 2.3 (1) of the Determination provides that a Minister is entitled to one self-drive car for use at the Minister's discretion. The Determination can be found on the New Zealand Parliament's website at [Ministers' Travel Services within New Zealand Determination 2020 - New Zealand Parliament \(www.parliament.nz\)](http://www.parliament.nz)

Other entitled users of chauffeur-driven service include visiting dignitaries, Heads of State and Heads of Government; Governors-General, former Governors-General and former Prime Ministers; the Leader of the Opposition, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House and senior members of the judiciary. While the Governor-General may on occasion be provided a Crown fleet chauffeur-driven vehicle by VIPT, support for their travel requirement is primarily provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

### **Crown Fleet**

The Department can confirm that:

- The Crown fleet has a mix of car makes and models for chauffeur-driven vehicles and Ministerial self-drive cars.
- As of 30 June 2021, 60% of the Crown fleet vehicles, which include Ministerial self-drive cars, are electric.
- VIPT is working towards transitioning an all-electric Crown fleet by 2025/26.
- Ministerial self-driven vehicles are selected from the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment's All of Government Motor Catalogue, and go through an additional assessment and selection process by VIPT to ensure they meet environmental, value for money and safety standards.

The Department does not record mileage for Crown fleet vehicles. We regularly release surface travel expenses involving Ministers, their spouse or accompanying staff publicly available on a quarterly basis on its website. The data released cover costs for the use of chauffeur-driven vehicle and self-drive vehicles provided by VIP Transport, taxis, mileage claims for personal vehicles used to conduct official business, and payment of parking fees.

The latest quarterly Ministers' expenses released by the Department can be found at [Ministers expense releases - dia.govt.nz](https://www.dia.govt.nz). You can also find previous Ministers' surface travel expense releases in the link.

We intend to publish this response to [www.dia.govt.nz](https://www.dia.govt.nz) with your personal details removed. Publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the purpose of the Act to enable effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies, and to promote the accountability of Ministers and officials.

If you have any concerns with the information in this response, you have a right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. Information on how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



**Briget Ridden**  
General Manager  
Ministerial and Secretariat Services