



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

28 March 2023

Albert McKinnel
fyi-request-21991-02ccb0d4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2022/23-0631

Tēnā koe Albert

Official Information Act request: Architectural details and floor plans for Government House Wellington

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 4 March 2023. You requested:

“Please provide the original architectural details and the floor plans for the current Government House complex based out of Wellington, and associated costs incurred during the original construction of the Government House property.”

The release into the public domain of the original floor plans dating from 1910 of Government House in Wellington would present a significant security risk to the Governor General and visiting dignitaries. I have decided therefore to withhold this information in full under section 6(d) of the Act, as the making available of the information would be likely to endanger the safety of any person.

However, the plans of the ground floor of Government House from 1924 are currently on display at the Visitor Centre at Government House in Wellington. I am enclosing a photograph of those plans for your information.

The Cabinet Office does not hold a formal record of the costs incurred during the original construction of Government House. Details of the costs of the original build are contained in an article which was published by the Otago Daily Times in December 1910 which I am releasing to you in full.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

4712839

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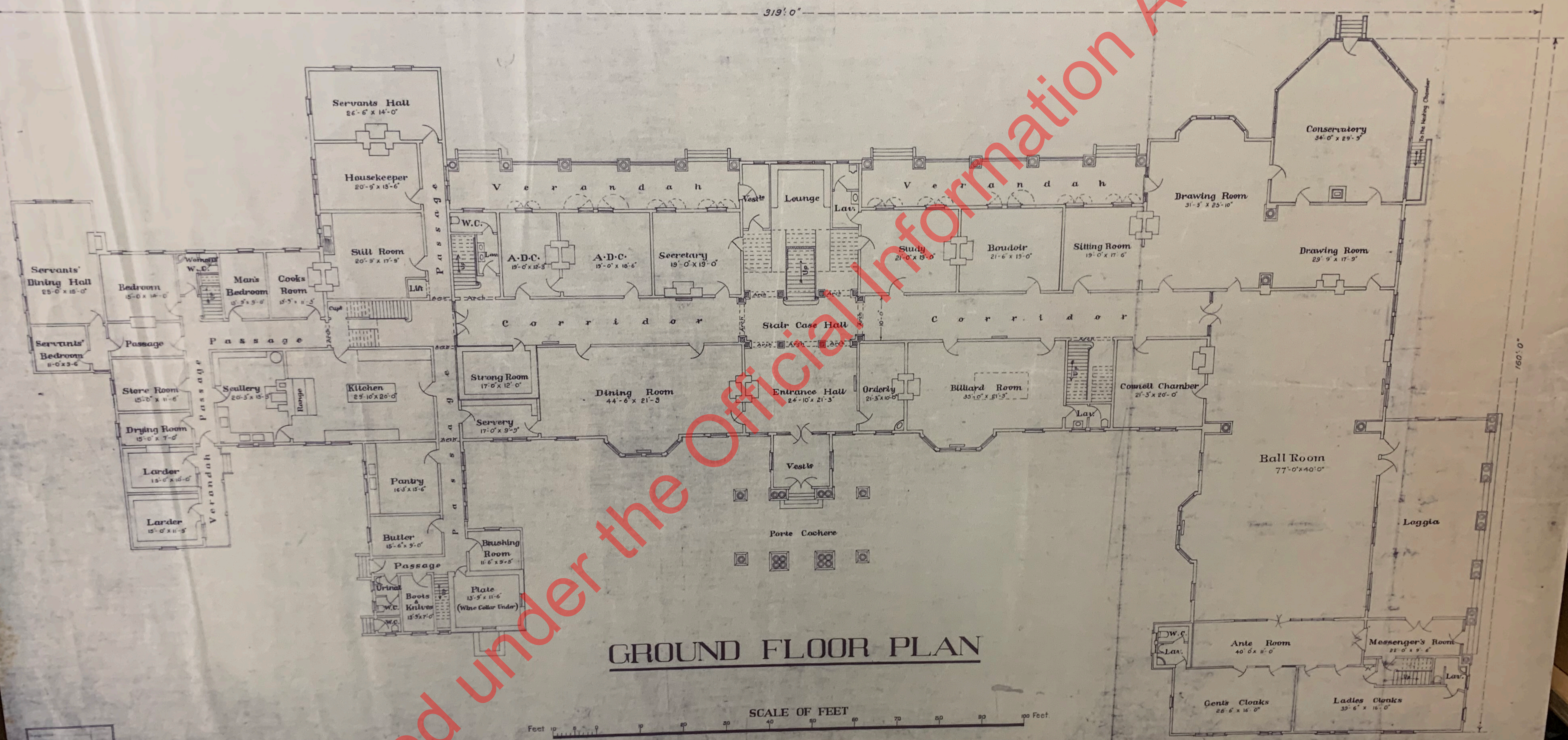
We do not intend to publish this response on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website.

Nāku noa, nā

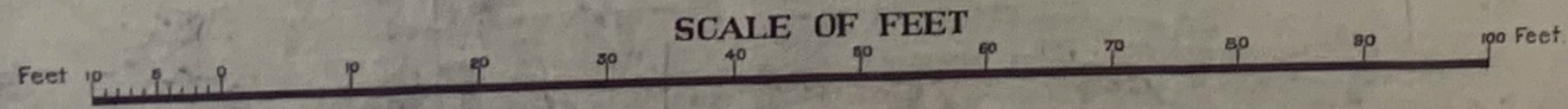
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rg Hayward', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rachel Hayward
Clerk of the Executive Council

Government House Plan 1924



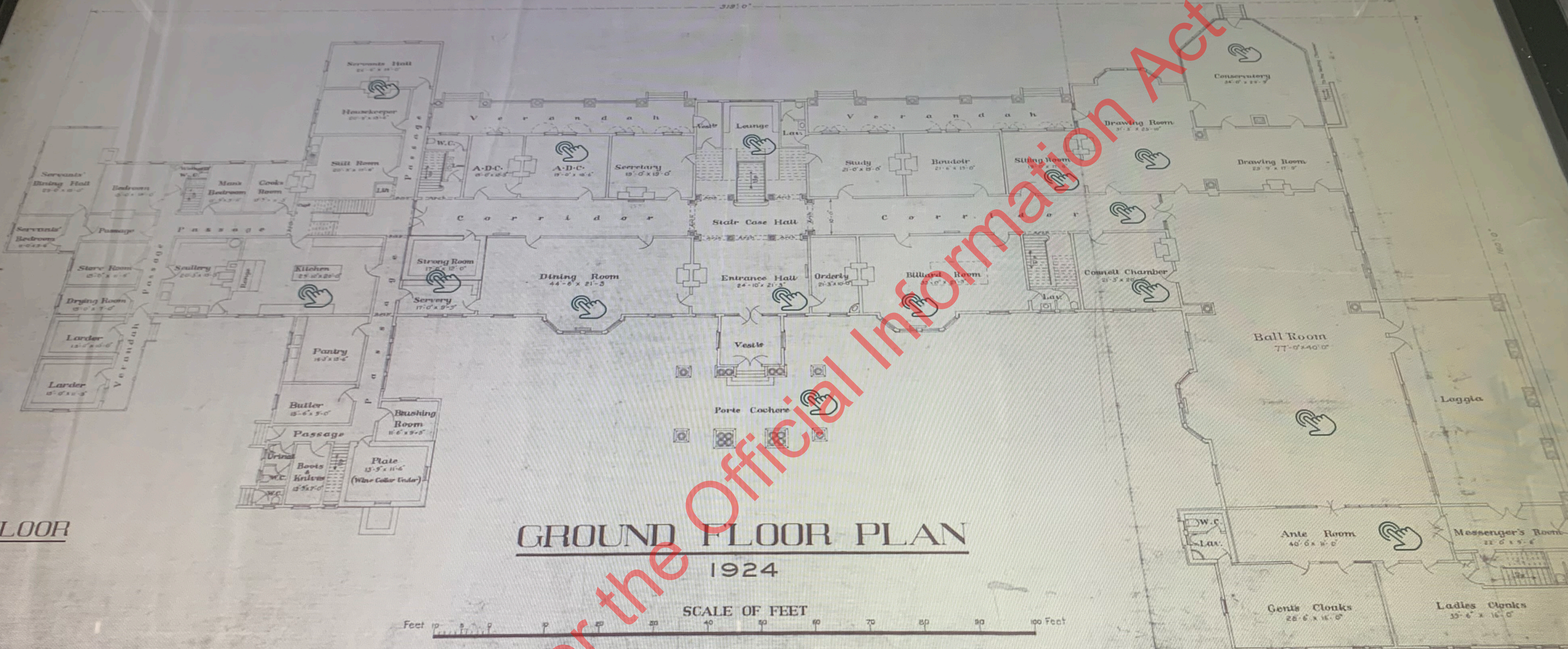
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



P.W./W.D.O. No 2775.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



FLOOR

2775.

Dyslexia Friendly

Large Text

Touch screen to see more



MOATA ARIKI

BALLROOM

COUNCIL ROOM

LIVERPOOL

TAUPAEPÄ

NORRIS STATE DINING ROOM

MAIN HALLWAY

MAIN HALLWAY

HOBSON ROOM

FERGUSSON ROOM

PORRITT ROOM

LANDING

BLUNDELL ROOM

BLEDISLOE CONSERVATORY

COE ROOM

FIT ROOM

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

WELLINGTON GOVERNMENT
HOUSE.

WELLINGTON GOVERNMENT
HOUSE.

WHAT IT HAS COST.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WELLINGTON, December 3.

While the Public Works Estimates were under consideration in the House of Representatives last night Mr F. M. B. Fisher moved the reduction of the item, "Government House, Wellington, £30,000" by £1 in order to allow the Minister of Public Works to fulfil a promise which he made earlier in the session to give information relative to the cost of the erection of the new residence.

In reply, the Hon. R. M'Kenzie said the total cost of Government House up to September 27 was £53,423, including the cost of furnishing to September 27, and there had been very little since.

Mr Fisher said the House was originally informed that the building would cost £25,000, and it had cost £53,000.

The Hon. R. M'Kenzie said the actual cost of Government House was £26,847.

Having secured this information, Mr Fisher withdrew his motion.

Mr Pearce then moved as an amendment:—"That the item, 'new Government House, Wellington, £30,000,' be reduced by £2 as a protest against the extravagant waste that had taken place in regard to the scheme.

Mr Massey said he thought there was no necessity for the site of Government House to be changed.

The Hon. R. M'Kenzie said that after the fire no other scheme was possible. As soon as the old Government House was altered it could not be turned again into a vice-regal residence. He thought that the new residence was equal to anything in the southern hemisphere.

Mr Pearce said that the old site was much better than the new site. A grave blunder had been made.

Mr Luke declared that the new Government House site was the best possible in the city.

Mr Nosworthy described the whole scheme as "tommy rot."

Mr Luke: What is wrong with the site?

Mr Nosworthy: It is in a smoky hole. It is in the worst possible position.

The amendment was rejected by 39 votes to 23.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982