



1 May 2023

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

Lional Jones

fyi-request-22328-9246e7f8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Lional Jones,

Request to correct response to Official Information Act request 2122-0570

Thank you for your email on 30 March 2023 to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) requesting the following:

- 1. I request internal email, text or other messaging app messages relating to your decision to not release information regarding Official Information Act request (OIA 2122-0570).*
- 2. Please consider the fact that I have been informed by a former casual employee of Ministerial Services that you record milage details after every trip in Crown cars in a system called BMC Remedy (or alternate names for it). This milage data is used to on-charge trips to Minister's offices. Please reconcile the above to your original response to Official Information Act request (OIA 2122-0570).*
- 3. Please consider the fact I have been informed by the same person that you also periodically record milage of self-drive vehicles for the purpose of servicing, reimbursements and other internal reporting. Please reconcile the above to your original response to Official Information Act request (OIA 2122-0570).*

Response to your request

For ease of reference:

- a copy of the Department's response to OIA 2122-0570 proactively released on our website is attached [here](#), and
- we have numbered your questions followed by our response.

1. I request internal email, text or other messaging app messages relating to your decision to not release information regarding Official Information Act request (OIA 2122-0570).

Emails relating to the decision taken for OIA 2122-0570 are attached at Appendix A as requested.

2. Please consider the fact that I have been informed by a former casual employee of Ministerial Services that you record milage details after every trip in Crown cars in a system called BMC Remedy (or alternate names for it). This milage data is used to on-charge trips to Minister's offices. Please reconcile the above to your original response to Official Information Act request (OIA 2122-0570).

Until July 2022, BMC Remedy was used by VIP Transport (VIPT) to record information for Crown fleet vehicles, including information pertaining to Ministerial self-drive cars as follows:

- vehicle make, model, and year,
- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN),
- vehicle registration details,
- mileage of vehicle for Warrant of Fitness (WoF) and servicing purposes,
- due dates for WoF and routine servicing,
- self-drive vehicles assigned to entitled users¹, and
- jobs requested and assigned.

The BMC Remedy system was retired on 14 July 2022 and is no longer in use. At no stage did it record mileage data after each trip.

Please note, VIP Transport charges Ministers' offices not by kilometres driven but on the time taken by chauffeurs to complete a transportation job. The time charged could include waiting time for Ministers by the chauffeurs.

3. Please consider the fact I have been informed by the same person that you also periodically record milage of self-drive vehicles for the purpose of servicing, reimbursements and other internal reporting. Please reconcile the above to your original response to Official Information Act request (OIA 2122-0570).

While the Department records vehicle mileage for WoF and servicing requirements, it is not required to report on mileage for transportation jobs completed for Ministers. Similarly, Ministers are not required to record or provide mileage for their self-drive vehicles. However, they are:

¹ The Ministers' Travel Services within New Zealand Determination 2020 sets out the entitlements of Ministers to all travel services within New Zealand. You can find the Determination on the New Zealand Parliament's [website](#).

- able to receive mileage reimbursement when using their personal vehicles on official business, and
- required to inform VIPT about any issues relating to their self-drive vehicle for servicing.

The Department releases quarterly surface travel expenses involving Ministers, their spouse or accompanying staff 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. This information is periodically released to support transparency. You can find the most recent quarterly Ministers' expenses [here](#). You can also find previous Ministers' surface travel expense releases in the link.

I hope our response has been helpful in addressing the issues raised.

Yours sincerely



Briget Ridden

General Manager – Ministerial Services

Te Haumi – Enterprise Partnerships

Te Tari Taiwhenua – The Department of Internal Affairs

Appendix A: Emails relating to decision for OIA 2122-0570

-----Original Message-----

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, February 18, 2022 12:24 PM

To: MaSS info <MaSS.info@dia.govt.nz>

Cc: 9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: INCOMING OIA2122-0570 9(2)(a) - Ministerial vehicle usage

Thanks 9(2)(a)

My thoughts are to decline the request based of not having that data.

Not to give him the option to rescope.

Point him direction of information that is available to anyone.

Thanks

Ngā mihi

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) | Manager VIP Transport (Acting) | VIP Transport Service Ministerial and Secretariat Services Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua

45 Pipitea Street, Pipitea, Wellington 6160, New Zealand |

9(2)(a) |

-----Original Message-----

From: MaSS info <MaSS.info@dia.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, February 18, 2022 12:16 PM

To: MaSS info <MaSS.info@dia.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: INCOMING OIA2122-0570 ^{9(2)(a)} - Ministerial vehicle usage

Hi ^{9(2)(a)}

As we discussed yesterday, I favour the alternative approach you set out.

That is, to refuse the request on the ground that we don't have the data requested and provide the information that we have.

Kind regards

^{9(2)(a)} | Lead Advisor Official Correspondence Ministerial and Secretariat Services
Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua

^{9(2)(a)}

Level 4, 45 Pipitea St, Wellington 6011

www.dia.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: MaSS info <MaSS.info@dia.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 18 February 2022 12:07 PM

To: 9(2)(a)

Cc: 9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: INCOMING OIA2122-0570 9(2)(a) - Ministerial vehicle usage

Kia ora kōrua

Spoke with 9(2)(a)

Thinking further, I am inclined to make the response and not go back to ask for the request to be rescoped. This is because we don't collect the information he has asked - mileage for self-drives and mileage per individual Minister for VIPT jobs either by month or year.

For external reporting, we provide:

- chauffeur-drive services provided leading to no sustained complaints (DIA Annual report) against number of jobs
- total vehicle fleet (DIA Annual report)

In quarterly Ministers' expenses reporting on our website, we however report on surface travel expenses of Ministers, spouses and staff, where relevant, of their use of VIPT/Crown vehicles, taxis, parking fees and mileage claims. This is however a single figure for the quarter, includes all categories of users and types of expenses.

I can tell the requestor that that's the information we have and invite him to rescope his request. He may then request for a breakdown of quarterly Minister's surface travel expenses data specific to mileage and Ministers only by individual months or year total. The alternative is to refuse the request on the ground that we don't have the data requested and provide the information that we have. He could then come back with a revised request or not.

What are your thoughts?

9(2)(a) | Lead Advisor

Strategy and Business Support – Ministerial Services and Secretariat Support Te Tari
Taiwhenua | The Department of Internal Affairs

9(2)(a)

-----Original Message-----

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 11 February 2022 2:36 pm

To: MaSS info <MaSS.info@dia.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: INCOMING OIA2122-0570 9(2)(a) - Ministerial vehicle usage

Hi,

9(2)(a) is in on Mon/Tue also and by looking at her calendar she has no gaps at all next week, so it might be best to grab her for a 5 minute chat during Mon/Tue if you see that she is free. She may also approach you.

9(2)(a) is there on a Mon/Tue also, so ask him to join in.

If I'm not able to be part of the chat, it's ok, someone can fill me in.

Ngā mihi

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) | Manager VIP Transport (Acting) | VIP Transport Service Ministerial and
Secretariat Services Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua

45 Pipitea Street, Pipitea, Wellington 6160, New Zealand |

9(2)(a) |

-----Original Message-----

From: MaSS info <MaSS.info@dia.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 11 February 2022 2:18 PM

To: 9(2)(a)

Cc: 9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: INCOMING OIA2122-0570 9(2)(a) - Ministerial vehicle usage

OK, thanks for letting me know 9(2)(a)

Send me an invite if by it's a zoom chat or email me when you want to meet kanohi-ki-te kanohi.

I'm in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Ngā mihi

9(2)(a) | Lead Advisor

Strategy and Business Support – Ministerial Services and Secretariat Support Te Tari
Taiwhenua | The Department of Internal Affairs

9(2)(a)

-----Original Message-----

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 11 February 2022 1:51 PM

To: 9(2)(a) MaSS info <MaSS.info@dia.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: INCOMING OIA2122-0570 9(2)(a) - Ministerial vehicle usage

Hi 9(2)(a)

Just spoke with 9(2)(a) - we are going to put a hold on this OIA please. We need to have a 10 minute chat next week about it.

Thanks

Ngā mihi

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) | Manager VIP Transport (Acting) | VIP Transport Service Ministerial and Secretariat Services Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua

45 Pipitea Street, Pipitea, Wellington 6160, New Zealand |

9(2)(a) |

-----Original Message-----

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 11 February 2022 1:31 PM

To: MaSS info <MaSS.info@dia.govt.nz>; 9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: INCOMING OIA2122-0570 9(2)(a) - Ministerial vehicle usage

Hi 9(2)(a)

The timeframe for getting mileages will depend on what they exactly need. Is it possible to please ask them to clarify?

We don't track mileages for Ministerial self-drives, in the past we were able to as they were required to enter their current mileage when refuelling the vehicles. Now that most are EV and don't require fuel we don't have the ability to track mileage.

This being the case the timeframe may be quick as the information is unavailable unless it is a PHEV and the driver does enter a mileage reading when refuelling, which most of the time they either don't or enter and incorrect mileage.

The CR fleet we do track mileage that will take approx 1 day to compile if needed.

Kind Regards

9(2)(a)

-----Original Message-----

From: MaSS info <MaSS.info@dia.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 11 February 2022 1:13 pm

To: 9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: INCOMING OIA2122-0570 9(2)(a) - Ministerial vehicle usage

My thoughts too, 9(2)(a), that he started with asking about self-drive then went on to ask about chauffeured rides. I guess it comes down to what is the meaning of "allocated" intended by the requestor.

Once I hear back from 9(2)(a) re estimated timeframe to pull the data for all vehicle travel and self-drive, I will go back to clarify the scope of the request with 9(2)(a).

-----Original Message-----

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 11 February 2022 12:57 PM

To: MaSS info <MaSS.info@dia.govt.nz>; 9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: INCOMING OIA2122-0570 9(2)(a) - Ministerial vehicle usage

Hi 9(2)(a)

It sounds like he is asking for mileage re: vehicles allocated to a Minister, which would be their self-drive but then goes on to talk about chauffeurs.

I'm not sure whether you should go back and clarify with him or not.

9(2)(a), how long would it take to pull mileage per Minister, for all vehicle travel, per year?

Thanks

Ngā mihi

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) | Manager VIP Transport (Acting) | VIP Transport Service Ministerial and Secretariat Services Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua

45 Pipitea Street, Pipitea, Wellington 6160, New Zealand |

9(2)(a) |

-----Original Message-----

From: MaSS info <MaSS.info@dia.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 11 February 2022 11:03 AM

To: 9(2)(a)

Subject: FW: INCOMING OIA2122-0570 9(2)(a) - Ministerial vehicle usage

Importance: High

Kia ora kōrua

Please the OIA request below from 9(2)(a)

Please could I seek your advice:

- I am thinking it may be useful to clarify with 9(2)(a) the scope of what he is requesting
- reading the request, I think it could mean mileage clocked for all rides used by Ministers be they self-drive or provided by VIPT. What do you think?

- would the information requested - if it's for all rides - require substantive collation, particularly if we provide a monthly breakdown per Minister and thereby necessitating an extension? And for how long?

- or do we provide an annual total per Minister? Again, would this take substantive collation, and we would need to ask for an extension?

Could I hear back from you by Monday please?

Ngā mihi

9(2)(a) | Lead Advisor

Strategy and Business Support – Ministerial Services and Secretariat Support Te Tari
Taiwhenua | The Department of Internal Affairs

9(2)(a)

-----Original Message-----

From ^{9(2)(a)}

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 10:32 PM

To: OIA <OIA@dia.govt.nz>

Subject: Official Information request - Use of Crown Car

[You don't often get email from ^{9(2)(a)} Learn why this is important at <http://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>.]

Dear Department of Internal Affairs,

Please advise the kilometres driven in 2021 on each of the assigned vehicle provided to each Minister that is funded by the taxpayers, regardless of whether a chauffeur is allocated or not, and regardless of whether the Minister is inside or outside Cabinet.

If possible, please break down the mileage by calendar month. If not, an annual total for each Minister suffices.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

^{9(2)(a)}

This is an Official Information request made via the FYI website.

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

^{9(2)(a)}