

20 September 2023

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Tēnā koe James

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request, partially transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) on 7 August 2023, from the Office of the Prime Minister. You requested:

3) Please provide total costs and expenses if any, incurred by the media on this trip. This should include any charges for flights even if nominal amounts, food/beverages provided to media, accomodations if any etc.

6) Please provide details if an alternative travel option to the NZDF aircraft was investigated or discussed, such as commercial flights/charter aircraft etc.

On 4 September 2023, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 20 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

Please note that the Ministry can only respond on information held by this agency.

Regarding your first query, the Ministry incurred no costs specifically for the media delegation on this trip. The media were invited to most meals and hospitality hosted for the wider delegation.

Regarding the second part of your query, consideration of travel by commercial airlines was ruled out on the basis of the size of the delegation (media, business, kapa haka and officials); and the logistics on the ground in China requiring a group of this size to fly between two cities (Beijing and Shanghai).

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett
For Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade