



**Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Internal Affairs**

23 November 2023

Ministerial Services  
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John Luke

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Dear John Luke

**Official Information Act request (OIA 2324-0318)**

Thank you for your request for information dated 12 November 2023 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department). You requested the following information:

*Dear Department of Internal Affairs,*

*I noted,*

[National wreath laying ceremony to commemorate Armistice Day | Ministry for Culture and Heritage \(mch.govt.nz\)](https://www.mch.govt.nz/national-wreath-laying-ceremony-to-commemorate-armistice-day)

*For seating purposes, please RSVP to the Visits and Ceremonials Office at [vco.rsvp@dia.govt.nz](mailto:vco.rsvp@dia.govt.nz).*

*May I kindly request how many people (general public) did actually RSVP to the Visits and Ceremonials Office.*

*Also, may I kindly ask what other events are out there that you have invite (via public domain like the one I noted above) the public to attend and ask them to RSVP. Please supply the list of events from 1st Jan 2023 to 12 Nov 2023.*

## Response to your request

1. May I kindly request how many people (general public) did actually RSVP to the Visits and Ceremonials Office.

The Department can confirm that no individual from the public RSVP'd to the Visits and Ceremonial Office (VCO) for the national wreath laying ceremony on 11 November 2023 to commemorate Armistice Day 2023.

Invitations were sent to specific individuals to RSVP as there was limited seating available. The public were still notified that they could attend the event through public advertising (such as the link you provided in your request). However, there was no requirement for them to RSVP as organised seating was not available, except to those who were sent an invitation. If there were extra seats available due to invited individuals not attending, then those seats could be filled by the public who attended.

The link you have provided for the article posted on the Ministry for Culture and Heritage website states: "For seating purposes, please RSVP to the Visits and Ceremonials Office at [vco.rsvp@dia.govt.nz](mailto:vco.rsvp@dia.govt.nz)". It could be inferred from this that the public could RSVP for a seat. However, the Department can confirm this was not the case.

2. Also, may I kindly ask what other events are out there that you have invite (via public domain like the one I noted above) the public to attend and ask them to RSVP. Please supply the list of events from 1st Jan 2023 to 12 Nov 2023.

The following events were organised by VCO across New Zealand and were open for the public to attend, however there was no requirement for them to RSVP:

- Anzac Day (Dawn Service) – 25 April 2023
- Anzac Day (National Commemoration Service) – 25 April 2023
- Atatürk Memorial Wreathlaying– 25 April 2023
- He Rā Rākau Tītapu, King Charles III Coronation Tree Planting – 7 May 2023
- National Commemoration of Armistice Day – 11 September 2023

We may publish this OIA response on [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz) (with your personal details having been removed). Publishing responses to OIA requests 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 Act. Information on how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



**Briget Ridden**  
General Manager – Ministerial Services  
Te Haumi – Enterprise Partnerships  
Te Tari Taiwhenua – The Department of Internal Affairs