

Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change
Minister of Revenue



26 February 2024

T Murray

By email: fyi-request-25237-2ce94d03@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear T Murray,

Thank you for your email on 18 December in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

“Could you please provide the cost of the Minister and accompanying staff to attend COP28 summit in Dubai. Please advise the names of staff / department representatives and their position traveling with the Minister. Expenditure should include and be broken down by type of expenditure such as meals, hotels, flights, taxis.”

On 20 December 2024, the scope of your request was clarified that your request for information excluded staff from departmental agencies who are travelling separately to support COP28 negotiations. On 12 January 2024, the time limits for responding to your request were extended by an additional 10 working days because the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request are such that a proper response couldn't reasonably be made within the original time frame (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

Appendix 1 outlines information regarding travel costs associated with my travel to the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP28). As requested by you, expenditure is broken down by type of expenditure.

An estimate for the costs associated with COP28 Ministerial Party travel costs, approved by Cabinet, was proactively released in January here: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/media-and-resources/proposed-overseas-travel-hon-simon-watts-dubai-united-arab-emirates-cop-28-cab-23-min-0467/>

As outlined in the proactively released cabinet paper (linked above), I was supported at the conference by one member of my staff: Ankit Kishore, Private Secretary.

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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Simon Watts', written over a blue oval-shaped line.

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change