



18 June 2024

C G
fyi-request-26944-6a36fe37@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2023/24-0885

Dear C G

Official Information Act request relating to catering spend

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 22 May 2024. You requested (numbers added):

- “1 Please provide the amount spent on any catering by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet since 27 November 2023.*
- 2 Please break this spend down per event, and where available, the number of individuals in attendance (or planned to be in attendance) at each event.*
- 3 Please also provide any information held about policies, instructions, or correspondence about the catering budget (e.g., information about total budget per event, per year, or information about the appropriate spend per head for events).”*

Information being refused

In answer to parts one and two, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) does not hold information about spending on catering in a format that means it can be easily extracted in the way you have requested. Therefore, I am refusing your request for amounts spent on catering in the period since 27 November broken down by event under section 18 (f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

DPMC does not collect information on numbers attending events, therefore I am also refusing this part of your request under section 18 (e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Information being released

In reply to part three of your request I have decided to release the document listed below, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of individuals. This document explains our policy regarding all forms of entertainment, gifts, koha, and hospitality.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	1/04/2017	Hospitality, Gifts, Koha, and Entertainment Policy	Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(a).

We report on catering spending annually through the Parliamentary Annual Review process.

The results from the year 2022/23 are available on the Parliament website at: www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/54SCGOA_EVI_fd4648a6-8f33-47f5-4539-08dbf8a371_GOA1052/259cbc95fd5596b1a1c274a8d277a2d5119d4d06 (catering costs are at question 95). The results for the current financial year will be available later in 2024.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

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

This response will be published on DPMC's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clare Ward".

Clare Ward
Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement