



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

18 July 2024

Ministerial Services
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Dear Bruce

Official Information Act request (2324-1094)

Thank you for your request for information dated 19 June 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department). You requested the following information:

I request all official information held about the attempt by a Stuff reporter to ask a question of the Chinese Premier.

Background

The Department's Visits and Ceremonial Office (VCO) is part of the Ministerial Services Group. VCO work with the Minister and other Ministerial offices on arrangements and programmes for visits by Guests of Government and for nationally significant events such as ANAC Day and State memorial services. The VCO also work with the Police, MFAT, and DPMC in coordinating official visits.

VCO has a coordinating, organising, logistics and funding role. VCO has overall responsibility to the Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services to deliver visits effectively and efficiently. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) has responsibility for the foreign policy objectives and the programme priorities of a visit; briefing and advice for high level engagement; and bilateral relationship management.

Full details about the roles and responsibilities of VCO can be found in the Operational Policy Guidelines which is available on the Department's website¹.

¹ <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Visits-and-Ceremonial-Office---Operational-Policy-Guidelines>

Response to your request

Please find attached **Appendix A** all information held by the Department within the scope of your request. The only documentation within the scope of your request is a media talking points document drafted by the Department in order to respond to questions posed by Stuff to be used in their article². Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

As is required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered where necessary whether the grounds for withholding information under section 9(2) as set out in this response letter are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

We may publish this OIA response on 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 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

² <https://www.stuff.co.nz/politics/350316607>

Media talking points re allegations from Premier Li's visit

To be attributed to ^{9(2)(a)} [REDACTED]

We can confirm that, during Premier Li's recent visit to New Zealand, minor contact was made between members of the Department of Internal Affairs' team managing the visit and journalists. It was not intentional. Many events during this visit were in confined spaces, which means sometimes people came into contact with each other.

No complaints have been received.

We would also like to address claims that media were restricted from reporting on the event or asking questions. For security reasons, it is standard practice for media to be allocated specific areas at events. It is also not unusual for the Prime Minister and official visitors to make statements to media and not take questions. However, media are never restricted on what they can report.

Released under the Official Information Act

