



**Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Internal Affairs**

20 August 2024

Ministerial Services  
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Dear Cooper

**Official Information Act request (2425-0095)**

Thank you for your request for information dated 16 July 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. In the letter dated 30 July 2024 you were informed that your request had been partially transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department). You requested the following information:

1. *All documents (including, but not limited to: itineraries, communications e.g emails, texts) relating to the visit of Apple Inc.*
2. *All travel (specifically airfare) documents (including, but not limited to: receipts, itineraries, communications e.g emails, texts).*
3. *List of all passengers and booking classes for flights.*

The Department will be responding to parts two and three of your request (as underlined) relating to airfare, a list of passengers and booking classes. For clarity, we have interpreted your request to be asking for information relating to the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Christopher Luxon's recent visit to the United States of America between 8 July – 12 July 2024.

**Response to your request**

As per the Cabinet minute for the approved expenditure for this international travel, the costs associated with the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, and the approved Ministerial travel party to the United States of America will be met by Vote Internal Affairs (Ministerial Services). The approved Ministerial travel party consisted of two members of staff.

As at 1 August 2024, the Department has received airfare invoices totalling \$45,973.22 for this international travel. These costs cover airfares for the Prime Minister and two members of staff. A combination of premium economy and business class tickets were purchased.

The way the Department receives invoices for flights means it is difficult to separate particular flights and individual passengers. We do not receive individual invoices of each trip, rather invoices may cover the approved travel of various Ministers, their staff, and in some cases the Minister's spouse/partner or family member. We considered redacting the details of all other flights in order to meet your request. However, it would require substantial work to do so.

The Department is required under legislation to release aggregated expenses on Ministerial travel and accommodation on a quarterly basis on its website<sup>1</sup>. I can confirm that the next release of Ministers' travel expenses is set down for 22 August 2024. We also release information on Ministers' international travel in our Annual Reports<sup>2</sup>. More information on Ministerial travel<sup>3</sup> can be found in the Cabinet Manual<sup>4</sup>.

Therefore, the part of your request asking for airfare receipts is being refused under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 18(d) that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available; and or:
- Section 18(f) that the information cannot be made available with substantial collation or research.

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

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Ministers-expense-release>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg\\_URL/Resource-material-Corporate-Publications-Annual-Reports?OpenDocument](https://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Resource-material-Corporate-Publications-Annual-Reports?OpenDocument)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-business-units/cabinet-office/supporting-work-cabinet/cabinet-manual/2-ministers-crown-12>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-business-units/cabinet-office/supporting-work-cabinet/cabinet-manual>