



Samuel Watson  
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JCOIA-188

Dear Mr Watson

## OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email dated 17 September 2024 requesting under the Official Information Act.

*"In accordance with your obligations under the Official Information Act 1982, could you please respond to the following questions:*

- 1. Was the person actually travelling (i.e. the person for whom the SGAC was submitted) you (the Minister) or one of your staff members?*
- 2. Was the payment and SGAC actually submitted/completed by you, or one of your staff members?*
- 3. Why was an unsanctioned, paid third-party service used to submit an SGAC when the Singapore ICA provides these for free?*
- 4. Was the person travelling on their personal passport, a diplomatic passport, or an official passport?*
- 5. Have you (and/or the person actually travelling) sought advice on the privacy and security concerns of this disclosure of personal information, including passport information, to an unofficial third party? If so, what was the advice received? If not, will you?*
- 6. Has the passport whose details were provided to an unofficial third party subsequently been cancelled?*
- 7. Have you (or the person actually travelling) reimbursed the fee of \$134.41 to the Crown?"*

I was travelling to Singapore on ministerial business and using my diplomatic passport. In good faith, I completed and paid for an arrival card on the [sg-arrivalcard.online](https://sg-arrivalcard.online) website. Using this website does not necessarily mean that it's not a legitimate as an arrival card was issued and I was able to still enter Singapore.

Since the matter has been brought to our attention, we have sought advice regarding any privacy and security concerns. There are no concerns the biometric data linked to my passport cannot be copied or misused through this process.

I have also been advised that this does not meet the criteria for reimbursement because it was a good faith decision and within the travel budget.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Judith Collins', with a large initial 'J'.

Hon Judith Collins KC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a few cursive strokes.