



5 October 2024

Ministerial Services
45 Pipitea St, Thorndon
PO Box 805, Wellington
6140, New Zealand
Phone +64 4 495 7200

[Website: www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

Michael Riconosciuto
fyi-request-28576-7b9d19e0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Micheal

Official Information Act request (OIA 2425-0336)

I refer to your request to the Office of the Prime Minister dated 29 September 2024 which was partially transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department). You requested the following information:

"I request

[1] all communications regarding the Prime Minister and Minister for Sport & Recreation's attendance at the All Blacks vs Australia test match.

[2] I also request any costs incurred for the visit."

I understand that the office of Hon Chris Bishop will be responding to part one of your request.

Part two of your request was transferred to the Department's Ministerial Services group as we have responsibility for VIP Transport services as well as the processing of Ministerial expenses. As advised in the transfer letter dated 7 October 2024, the only costs relating to the Prime Minister's attendance at the All Blacks versus Australia game were transportation provided by VIP Transport to and from the stadium. We have therefore sought to provide further details of the transportation costs.

Response to part two of your request

It is not always possible to provide specific breakdowns of VIP Transport cost due to security reasons and the work involved in identifying the relevant data. The Department is of the view that public interest factors in these costs are met because we publicly release quarterly information (that has been reviewed and verified) on Ministerial ¹travel and accommodation on a quarterly basis on our website linked below².

¹ Travel costs include VIPT/Crown vehicles, taxis, parking fees, tolls and milage claims.

² <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Ministers-expense-releases-recent-disclosures>

However, in the spirit of the Act, we consider each request for information of this type on a case-by-case basis. In this instance the Department has identified the following costs associated with the attendance of the Prime Minister and the Minister for Sport and Recreation at the All Blacks versus Australia game in Wellington on 28 September 2024. These include transport to and/or from the venue.

Minister	VIPT	Taxi	Total
Rt Hon Christopher Luxon	\$272.00		\$272.00
Hon Chris Bishop	\$85.00	\$92.02	\$177.02
			\$449.02

Please note, the VIP Transport costs associated with the Prime Minister include the costs to and from the stadium as well as the chauffeur's time on stand-by for the duration of the game. No additional costs have been identified relating to the attendance of the Prime Minister or the Minister for Sport and Recreation at the game.

As noted above, the Department is required under legislation to release aggregated expenses on Ministerial travel and accommodation on a quarterly basis. I can confirm the next release of Ministers' travel expenses is set for 21 November 2024 and will cover expenses for the period 1 July to 30 September 2024. The Department also releases Ministerial credit card expenses on our website, also linked below.³

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

³ <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Ministers-expense-releases> - then select 'Ministerial Credit Card Expense Releases