

19 December 2024

Official information request 8140014995
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

James

By email: fyi-request-29411-be4e8f54@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe James

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Re: Overseas trip to Brazil and China

Thank you for your email dated 02 December 2024, in which you requested information about Mayor Wayne Brown and a staff member's recent overseas trip to Brazil and China. The specific details of your request and our response are below.

Please provide and detail all costs if any, for Mayor Wayne Brown and a staff member's recent overseas trip to Brazil and China.

This should include costs and details of all flights/class of flights/hotels/food/transportation/entertainment/gifts etc.

Please detail who, if anyone from the mayor's office accompanied Mr Brown on this trip.

CHINA

Mayor's Office staff member who accompanied the mayor: Stu Mullin, Head of Governance.

Travel Class:

- Auckland to Hainan: Business Class
- Hainan to Shanghai: Economy (followed by a bus to Ningbo)
- Ningbo to Guangzhou: Economy Class
- Guangzhou to Chengdu: Economy Class
- Chengdu to Tokyo: Economy Class
- Tokyo to Auckland: Business Class for Mayor, Premium Economy for Stu Mullin

Total Cost of Flights: \$13,960 total for two, return.

Accommodation:

- Hainan: Sheraton Haikou - \$1,530 total for Mayor Brown + Stu Mullin for three nights.

- Shanghai: Langham Shanghai - \$3,720 total for Mayor Brown + Stu Mullin for three nights.
- Ningbo: Sheraton Ningbo - \$410 total for Mayor Brown + Stu Mullin for one night.
- Guangzhou: Mandarin Oriental - \$2,940 total for Mayor Brown + Stu Mullin for three nights.
- Chengdu: Century City Intercontinental – \$820 total for Mayor Brown + Stu Mullin for four nights.

Gifts & Entertainment:

- 1 x Box Hot Sauce Bottles - \$90 total (12 bottles).
- 2 x Auckland Volcanoes Puzzle - \$52 each (purchased from Auckland Art Gallery – Part of the Auckland Council CCO family).
- 3 x books – Te Kohinga - \$45 each (purchased from Auckland Art Gallery – Part of the Auckland Council CCO family).
- 3 x books – Contemporary Māori Art - \$45 each (purchased from Auckland Art Gallery – Part of the Auckland Council CCO family).
- 3 x Prints - \$65 each (purchased from Auckland Art Gallery – Part of the Auckland Council CCO family).
- 20 x China-NZ Friendship pins were purchased - \$110 total (\$5.50 each).
- Guangzhou Civic Reception – Recognising 35 years of sister city relations – Co-hosted with NZ Consulate and Minister of Trade - \$4,000 for food only (appx 200 attendees).

Mayor Brown also gifted approximately thirty copies of his book “The 5 Minute MBA” at no cost to council. Nominal value \$20 each.

The mayor expects staff to cover their own cost of meals while travelling, as they need to eat anyway, so no costs were claimed for meals, per diems etc. Aside from the Guangzhou Civic Reception there was no other entertainment costs claimed by the Mayoral Office.

BRAZIL

Mayor’s Office staff member who accompanied the mayor: Jazz Singh, Chief of Staff.

Travel Class:

- Auckland to São Paulo: Business Class
- São Paulo to Auckland: Business Class

Total Cost of Flights: \$38,163.05 total for two, return

Accommodation:

- São Paulo: Intercontinental Hotel - \$4,215.47 total for Mayor Wayne Brown + Jazz Singh for three nights each (recommended by NZ Trade & Enterprise based on delegation security and logistical requirements to align with Minister of Trade)

Gifts:

- 2 x Auckland Volcanoes Puzzle - \$52 each (purchased from Auckland Art Gallery – Part of the Auckland Council CCO family).
- 10 x Brazil-NZ Friendship pins were purchased - \$55 total (\$5.50 each).
- 2 x Auckland FC football shirts and caps (donated no cost to Council, nominal value - football shirts \$140 each and caps \$35 each).

Mayor Brown also gifted five copies of his book "The 5 Minute MBA" in English at no cost to council, as well as two copies in Portuguese. Nominal value \$20 each.

The mayor expects staff to cover their own cost of meals while travelling, as they need to eat anyway, so no costs were claimed for meals, per diems etc. There was no entertainment costs claimed by the Mayoral Office.

The decision by Auckland Council to release the information contained in this response was made by Lou-Ann Ballantyne, General Manager - Governance and Engagement.

You have the right to complain to the Ombudsman if you believe we have not responded appropriately to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you have any further queries, please contact me on 09 301 0101 quoting official information request number 8140014995.

Ngā mihi



Amanda Pillay
Privacy and Official Information Business Partner
Customer Experience and Digital Services