

17 August 2012

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Lewis Holden
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Dear Mr Holden

I write further to your email of 30 July 2012 to Katrina Taylor in relation to my response to your Official Information Act request regarding Revenue and Output expenses tables associated with hosting, transporting and protecting Royal visitors to New Zealand for the period 2012-13.

Your original request specifically asked for:

- *The Revenue and Output expenses table of the estimated costs under Vote Ministerial Services, administered by the Department of Internal Affairs, associated with hosting, transporting and protecting Royal visitors to New Zealand for the period 2012 - 2013;*
- *The Revenue and Output expenses table of the costs associated with hosting, transporting and protecting Royal visitors to New Zealand for the period 2012 - 2013 already incurred by the department.*

As I explained in my response of 30 July 2012, there is no such information specifically for costs associated with Royal visitors, such costs forming part of the appropriation Vote Internal Affairs: Services Supporting the Executive: Coordination of Official Visits and Events. This information was provided to you in my response and therefore in my view no information was withheld. Similarly I stated in my response that no direct costs for hosting, transporting and protecting the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall or any other Royal visitors had yet been incurred for the 2012-2013 financial year, and so no information was withheld.

However, I now see from your email that you are seeking the actual budgeted costs for the 'Royal visit'. I assume that you mean the visit to New Zealand by the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

It should be noted that the visit to New Zealand by the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall is still in the early stages of planning, with many details, including dates, not confirmed as yet. As such it is difficult to provide a meaningful 'budget' for the visit.

I am withholding any information on possible costs that does exist under sections 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, which protect the confidentiality of advice given by Ministers and officials, and the free and frank expression of opinions by employees of an organisation in the course of their duty, and under section 18(d), as the actual costs will soon be publicly available.

Please also note that the appropriation for the visit is Vote Internal Affairs: Services Supporting the Executive: Coordination of Official Visits and Events, not Vote: Ministerial Services. For your information with effect from 1 July 2012 all appropriations previously administered by the Department of Internal Affairs through other Votes have been transferred into a single Vote: Internal Affairs.



Public interest

I acknowledge that there is a public interest in disclosure of the withheld information. However, I do not consider that this outweighs the need to withhold such information at this early stage of planning for the Royal visit. Some information about the tour itinerary will be released ahead of the visit and as stated in my letter to you of 30 July 2012, it is the Department's intention that information about the cost of the visit will be publicly released after the visit has occurred.

If you have any concerns with the decisions referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janice Calvert', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Janice Calvert
General Manager
Ministerial and Secretariat Services