



MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Suzanne Newton
fyi-request-7496-567c0931@requests.fyi.org.nzi

25 MAY 2018

Dear Suzanne Newton

Official Information Act request transfer

I refer to your Official Information Act (OIA) request of 21 March 2018, requesting the following information:

I would like to know the full amount of the cost to the New Zealand tax payer for the visit of Ex-President Barack Obama to New Zealand in March 2018.

Included in this, but not exclusive to, I would like to know the full cost of any travel, vehicles, security measures, accommodation, meals, Special Services, time involved in preparation and closing of the visit, NZ Police special services, signage, road closures, special clothing and other such items, wages for extra personnel, payments to staff and /or /others involved, price of any gifts, rewards, or any items given to Barack Obama, and / or any person engaged or connect to the visit e.g. John Key, who may have been paid, received gifts, wages, items or such to be part of this event.

In short I would like to know exactly what the cost to New Zealand has been to host an ex-President.

I would also like to know what justification, i.e. financial benefit to New Zealand, this visit is meant to produce. I would like that in a dollar amount, as I am sure New Zealand is not in the habit of giving expensive holidays to the now unemployed without some benefit to ALL New Zealanders.

On 2 May 2018, I wrote to you to extend the timeframe for responding to your OIA request, noting that I was likely to transfer your request to other agencies that had incurred costs in relation to the visit. After consultation, it is apparent that costs have been incurred by NZ Police and the NZ Customs Service and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. I am therefore transferring this part of your request to these agencies. I have also transferring the part of your request regarding the "justification the visit is meant to produce" to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their response. These transfers are made under section 14(b)(1) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that I am not transferring your request to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, as I am aware that your request was transferred to this agency at the same time it was transferred to me.

I will provide you with the cost incurred by the Department of Internal Affairs once these costs have been finalised. It should be noted that the Department does not hold 'the full amount of the cost to the New Zealand taxpayer' and I do not believe this amount is held by any other agency.

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 Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Hipkins', written in a cursive style.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services