



MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Brook Barrington
Chief Executive and Secretary of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

25 MAY 2018

Dear Mr Barrington

Transfer of Official Information Act request from Suzanne Newton

On 21 March 2018, I received an Official Information Act (the Act) request from Suzanne Newton, 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.

The information regarding the justification for the visit is not held by me, but I believe this information is held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). I am therefore transferring this part of Ms Newton's request to you under section 14(b)(i) of the Act, as far as it relates to any costs that may have been incurred by MFAT in relation to this visit and to the 'justification the visit is meant to produce'.

A copy of Ms Newton's original request and the letter advising her of the transfer of this part of her OIA request is attached.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services