



Reference: 01-18-2288

19 June 2018

Ms Suzanne Newton

Email: [fyi-request-7496-567c0931@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-7496-567c0931@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Newton

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I am writing in response to your email sent to the Honourable Chris Hipkins on 21 March 2018 requesting information related to the 20-23 March 2018 visit of former United States President Barack Obama. Your request was transferred to the Police for response on the 25 May 2018. Your request was pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 and specifically asked for:

*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 to connected 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.*

In so far as security provided by New Zealand Police is concerned I refuse this request for the release of such information pursuant to sections 6(a), 6(c) and 6(d) of the Official Information Act 1982.

Section 6(a) provides good reason to withhold official information where the making available of the information is likely to "prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government of New Zealand."

Section 6(c) provides good reason to withhold official information where the release of that information would be likely to "prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial."

Section 6(d) provides good reason to withhold official information where the release of this information would be likely to “endanger the safety of any person.”

I base this refusal on my belief that the release of the costs associated with the provision of Police resources to the foreign dignitaries visiting New Zealand would prejudice the Police’s ability to protect them and maintain the law in future. The provision of the cost for Police resources to foreign dignitaries would allow a calculation to be made, accurately or not, of the New Zealand Police Protection Services deployment and staffing on which a threat could be based.

In regard to all other matters raised in your request, I have forwarded your request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

You have the right under Section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982 to request the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with my response to your request.

Yours sincerely



Chris Scahill  
Superintendent  
National Manager: Response and Operations