



NEW ZEALAND  
**CUSTOMS SERVICE**  
TE MANA ĀRAI O AOTEAROA

**WELLINGTON**

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PROTECTING NEW ZEALAND'S BORDER

22 June 2018

Ref: OIA 18-120

Ms Suzanne Newton

By email: [fyi-request-7496-567c0931@requests.fyi.org.nzi](mailto:fyi-request-7496-567c0931@requests.fyi.org.nzi)

Dear Ms Newton

**Request for official information**

Thank you for request under the Official Information Act (the Act) dated 21 March 2018 to the Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services. On 25 May 2018, the Hon Chris Hipkins partially transferred your request to the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs). You requested 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 product. 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 response to your request, I can advise you that Customs provided separate border processing, on arrival and departure, for former President Barack Obama and his group.

The border processing was organised for the former President and his group by a private contracted company. Customs charged the contracted company \$52.50 (excl. GST) for the border processing service.

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I trust you find this information about the former President's visit to New Zealand helpful. If you have any queries, please contact us at [OIA@customs.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@customs.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the initials 'K M T' followed by a horizontal line.

Kevin Martin  
**Group Manager, Finance, Strategy and Performance**