

Personal details removed for proactive release

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OIA 27998

I refer to your email of 8 April 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Since March 2020, how many "away days" or retreats have the executive/senior leaders in your organisation been on?

Please get in touch if your organisation leaders refer to a similar thing - a trip which involves team bonding or otherwise is about leaders having hui together out of a traditional meeting format - but by another word.

Can each away day/retreat be broken down by:

- *Dates and locations (including town and name of accommodation)*
- *Which leaders attended*
- *Budget for the retreat (broken down by travel, accommodation, food and drink, entertainment, and any other category you feel is relevant)*
- *What was the purpose of the retreat?*
- *Did any leaders produce a positive Covid-19 test within a fortnight of returning from the retreat?*

Since March 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) Senior Leadership Team has been on the four internal 'away days' or 'retreats' as listed in the Annex.

Details of the MFAT Senior Leadership Team can be found on the MFAT website here: [Our people | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(mfat.govt.nz\)](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/our-people/)

No leaders produced a positive COVID-19 test within a fortnight of returning from any of the retreats.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Julie-Anne Lee
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Annex: MFAT Senior Leadership Team away days, since March 2020

Date	Duration	Location	Purpose	Budget	Leaders attending
9/10/2020	9am-5pm	NZTE offices Willis St Wellington	(1) Strategic Planning - priorities for 2021; (2) Half-day Facilitated Session on SLT Team Building	Morning and afternoon tea and sandwich lunch \$253.24 Facilitator's fees are withheld as they are commercial-in-confidence s.9(2)(b)(ii)	Senior Leadership Team <i>Supported by:</i> Chief of Staff
29/1/2021	10.00am to 1.00pm	MFAT	Strategic Planning - priorities for 2021	No budget	Senior Leadership Team <i>Supported by:</i> Chief of Staff Principal Adviser Governance Divisional Manager, Strategy and Performance
5/11/2021	1.30-5.00pm	NZTE offices Willis St Wellington	Facilitated session on organisational culture and SLT's leadership role (Part 1)	Afternoon tea \$19.85 Facilitator's fees are withheld as they are commercial-in-confidence s9(2)(b)(ii)	Senior Leadership Team <i>Supported by:</i> Chief of Staff Chief People Officer
2/2/2022 and 3/02/2022	8.30am - 5.00pm	NZTE offices Willis St Wellington	(1) Facilitated session on organisational culture and SLT's leadership role (Part 2) (2) Strategic Planning - priorities for 2022	Morning, afternoon teas and sandwich lunches (2 days) \$493.24 Facilitation and Speaker fees are withheld as they are commercial-in-confidence s9(2)(b)(ii)	Senior Leadership Team <i>Supported by:</i> Chief of Staff Chief People Officer Principal Adviser, Governance Head of Capability, Culture and Programmes Divisional Manager, Strategy and Performance