

11 December 2023

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proactive release

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OIA 28922

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Tēnā koe

I refer to your email of 22 November 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. *What was the department's Taxi expenditure for the 2022/23 financial year?*
2. *What was the department's expenditure on ridesharing apps (such as Uber, Ola, Zoomy, YourRide etc) for the 2022/23 financial year?*
- a. *If the agency does not separate out taxi expenditure from other ride sharing expenditure, please indicate whether ridesharing or taxi use is the default/most common when such a service is needed and provide and a rough estimate of the proportion of trips that are taken via ridesharing vs taxi*
3. *What was the department's expenditure on public transport (busses, trains, ferries, etc) for the 2022/23 financial year?*
4. *What was the department's other road travel expenditure (running costs of vehicles owned by your agencies, hire cars etc but excluding flights) for the 2022/23 financial year?*
5. *Does the department have internal policies banning their staff or advising them against using ride-sharing apps for work travel? If so, what are these policies?*
6. *Does the department have any concerns about their staff using ride-sharing apps for work travel?*
7. *If the department does not currently use ridesharing, please indicate why not? Similarly, if the department does not use ridesharing as the default over taxis, please indicate why not.*
8. *Has the department purchased any vehicles over the 2022/2023 financial year? If so, how many were electric, diesel and petrol and what was the cost of these purchases broken down by vehicle type (electric, diesel, petrol)?*
9. *What is the running cost of all the department's vehicles?*
10. *Please provide an estimate on the number of kilometres travelled by staff via land transport in the 2022/23 financial year.*

The information relevant to your request is detailed below.

Questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10

Relevant information relating to the 2022/2023 financial year will be published by the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee on the Parliament website (link below) at the end of the upcoming Annual Review process. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information will be publicly available early in the new year, after the Annual Review hearing takes place: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/scl/foreign-affairs-defence-and-trade/tab/report>.

For your reference, similar information from previous financial years can be found in the 'Training, Travel and Other Expenses' section of the 21/22 Annual Review (starting on page 66), which is publicly available on the Parliament website: https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCFD_EVI_127474_FD1861/6b9354e7fc943701a0767780d0bfe74abb4314b6.

I note that as official travel involves hundreds of staff, their partners, and dependents, it is not practical to track details of each individual item (including when travel is by public transport). All travel is undertaken in accordance with official guidelines and is subject to formal approval processes.

Question 5

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) does not have an internal policy banning staff from using ride-sharing apps for work travel but, in certain locations around the world, security conditions mean that staff are advised against doing so for their own safety. This is managed on a case-by-case basis.

Question 6

As noted above, in some locations around the world there are security concerns about staff using ride-sharing apps for work travel.

Question 7

Although Ministry staff can use ridesharing for work travel where it is deemed safe, the Ministry does not hold data on the specific use of ridesharing apps by our staff. The Ministry does not use ridesharing as the default over taxis or other methods of travel, with staff taking into account safety and efficiency of the mode of transport alongside its cost-effectiveness.

Question 8

Over the 2022/23 year the Ministry purchased 16 vehicles as detailed in the table below:

Fuel Type	Number	Cost NZ\$
Electric	1	65,879
Diesel	4	242,849
Petrol	5	424,756
Hybrid	6	586,337
Total	16	1,319,821

Question 9

The running costs (fuel, maintenance and insurance) of all Ministry vehicles for 2022/23 was NZ\$1,172,183.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written over a vertical line.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade