

13 May 2024

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I refer to your email of 4 April 2024 in which you request the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- *All properties sold by MFAT between 19 November 2008 - 26 October 2017, including their location, function, and sale price.*
- *The cumulative lease and/or rental costs for each property that was leased to replace the function of those properties that were sold. For example, if an Ambassador's residence was sold on 1 January 2015, please provide the cumulative cost of renting a replacement property (where applicable) since that date.*

Please provide this information in a table.

On 2 May 2024, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 15 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request. (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

Below is a table showing all properties sold by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) between 19 November 2008 and 26 October 2017, including their location, function and sale price, as well as the average annual lease cost for the replacement properties. In some instances a replacement property has been purchased, and this is noted in the table.

We note that in all instances where property is sold the capital is retained by the Ministry and is recycled and used on capital works in other parts of the portfolio.

By way of context for London and Paris: In London the leased official residence is temporary and will be relocated to New Zealand House as part of the planned redevelopment, while in Paris the Embassy and official residence were sold as a compound and a replacement official residence was acquired.

Properties sold by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

For the period 9 November 2008 to 26 October 2017

Location	Function	Sale date	Sale price (NZD)	Replacement lease cost (average per annum NZD)
Canberra	Staff House	2009	\$1,785,000	purchase
Ottawa	Official Residence	2012	\$1,933,000	purchase
Washington	Staff House	2013	\$1,745,000	\$103,041
Noumea	Staff House	2013	\$560,000	48,382
Paris	Embassy	2014	\$35,411,000	\$880,569
Paris	Official Residence	2014	n/a	purchase
London	Official Residence	2014	\$10,683,000	\$446,830
New York	Official Residence	2015	\$5,704,777	purchase
The Hague	Official Residence	2016	\$4,315,353	\$142,430

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



Sarah Corbett
for Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade