



26 February 2019



Reference: OIA-2018/19-0403

Dear 

Official Information Act request for costs of Labour Caucus 2019 planning retreat in Martinborough and other matters

Thank you for your request of 30 January 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested:

1. *What is the total financial breakdown of all costs of the planning retreat in Martinborough that the Prime Minister, Cabinet and Labour Caucus are currently attending?*
2. *Could you please include costings to the New Zealand Taxpayer/Government for MP's involved and all government employees attending the planning retreat for the following:*
 - 2A) *Accommodation Costs*
 - 2B) *Travel Costs (Flights, Taxi's, etc)*
 - 2C) *Food*
 - 2D) *Alcohol*
 - 2E) *Entertainment*
 - 2F) *IT Services*
 - 2G) *Combined Total Salary calculation of those members attendance. (i.e. how much would be paid to all of those in attendance, over the course of how many days, of a normal working day).*
3. *How much would be the total spend in dollars (1), had this event occurred inside of Parliament, during a sitting day of parliament, not taking into account 2A) and 2B).*
4. *What is the estimated total spend in dollars (1), had this event been conducted on Skype Where 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E would not be required?*
5. *What is the estimated total carbon footprint of holding this event in Martinborough?*
6. *What is the estimated total carbon footprint of holding this event on Skype?*
7. *How many dollars has the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet spent on 7A) Alcohol, 7B) Food, and 7C) Entertainment since 26 October 2017?*

Answers to your questions are provided to you as follows:

1. *What is the total financial breakdown of all costs of the planning retreat in Martinborough that the Prime Minister, Cabinet and Labour Caucus are currently attending?*
2. *Could you please include costings to the New Zealand Taxpayer/Government for MP's involved and all government employees attending the planning retreat [...]*

The information you have requested at points one and two of your request is not held by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). Information held by the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern in her capacity as the Leader of the New Zealand Labour Party is not official

information as defined in section 2 of the Act. Accordingly, your request does not meet the requirements as a request for official information.

3. How much would be the total spend in dollars (1), had this event occurred inside of Parliament, during a sitting day of parliament, not taking into account 2A) and 2B).

4. What is the estimated total spend in dollars (1), had this event been conducted on Skype Where 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E would not be required?

5. What is the estimated total carbon footprint of holding this event in Martinborough?

6. What is the estimated total carbon footprint of holding this event on Skype?

With regards to points three, four, five and six of your request, the information you have requested is not held by DPMC. For that reason I am refusing your request for this information under section 18(e) of the Act on the basis that this information does not exist.

7. How many dollars has the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet spent on 7A) Alcohol, 7B) Food, and 7C) Entertainment since 26 October 2017?

It should be noted that DPMC only holds information relating to DPMC expenditure on the items you have listed and does not hold information on expenditure incurred by the Office of the Prime Minister and other Ministerial offices.

DPMC has recorded costs of \$11,831 in the Entertainment expenditure account in DPMC's financial system for the period between 26 October 2017 and 30 January 2019. Please be advised that this does not include the costs of entertainment relating to the Governor-General's programme.

Entertainment generally means gifts or hospitality provided to external entities "which is intended to improve relationships and/or reciprocate similar items or benefits received, excluding koha". It may include gift items, meals and drinks provided as hospitality and alcohol purchases (except for wine solely used as an ingredient in catering).

With regards to DPMC costs relating to the discrete categories of alcohol and food (7A and 7B), DPMC does not record information in categories that allow us to provide you this information without substantial research or collation.

I note that alcohol or food costs may be recorded as part of travel costs (to reimburse staff members for meals), as part of entertainment costs (as provided above) or as part of other costs incurred for staff events and functions (including if catering is provided to workshops, planning days or other meetings). For this reason I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act. If you are interested in DPMC's expenditure in these areas, you may wish to consider how you might wish to submit a more specific request.

You may also be interested to know that details of the Chief Executive's expenses are published annually on the DPMC website.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Finally, for your information, this letter will be published on DPMC's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward
Executive Director, Strategy, Governance and Engagement Group

