



15 September 2023



Ref: OIA-2023/24-0110

Dear 

Official Information Act request relating to the cost and purpose of events

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 10 August 2023. You requested:

“Can I please request under the Official Information Act:

- A list of all events the department has held or had some responsibility for hosting that cost in excess of \$10,000 over the past year? Can the total cost for each of these events please be provided, along with a breakdown of what contributed to the costs? It would be helpful to also know the business purpose or justification for each event as well.”*

As advised in our letter of 7 September 2023, the time limit for deciding on your request was extended by an additional six working days under section 15A of the Act. This extension was required because of the consultations needed to make a decision on your request.

The consultations have now been completed and I have decided to release the requested information to you.

Our response

We have identified three events which the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) held or had some responsibility for hosting between 10 August 2022 and 10 August 2023, that are in scope of your request.

Responsibility for all three identified events sat with DPMC's National Security Group which provides leadership across New Zealand's national security community to strengthen national resilience, develop situational understanding and improve coordination and collaboration on issues of national significance.

He Whenua Taurikura hui: 30 October – 1 November 2022

The Counter-Terrorism Hui, He Whenua Taurikura, is a conference-style event that brings together government agencies, academics and researchers, businesses and private sector organisations, communities, and civil society to discuss issues related to countering terrorism and violent extremism.

This initiative was in response to recommendation 16 from the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terror attack on Christchurch masjidain on 15 March, that Government host an annual hui to create opportunities to build relationships and share understanding of countering violent extremism and terrorism.

It was funded through Budget 2022 [B2 Wellbeing Budget 2022 - A Secure Future - 19 May 2022 \(treasury.govt.nz\)](#). The Government announcement can be found on Page 141:

The 2022 hui was hosted in Auckland from 30 October - 1 November with approximately 300 in person participants. The purpose of this Hui was to pursue a safer New Zealand, with a focus on prevention of violent extremism and terrorism. The conference event included a mix of keynote and research presentations, panel discussions, interactive workshop-style sessions, and a scenario-based tabletop exercise. The event featured a keynote speech from the Prime Minister. The event was attended by media and livestreamed to enable inclusion from those that could not attend in person.

This annual event has been an important way to build trust and confidence with communities, increase transparency in counter-terrorism work and build partnerships to counter terrorism and violent extremism. Given the diversity of participants, an in-person event is key to achieving this to break down barriers and build meaningful and sustainable relationships for engagement.

A significant proportion of the budget is allocated to travel and accommodation of participants, drawn particularly those from at-risk and affected communities. Many community organisations and community representatives are voluntary and non-paid, and covering costs of travel and accommodation supported their participation.

The hui was hosted by DPMC, with support from the Visits and Ceremonial Office of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA).

Further information about the 2022 event can be found at: www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/counter-terrorism/he-whenua-aurikura/he-whenua-aurikura-hui/he

The following table provides the total costs associated with this hui, that were incurred by DPMC.

Table 1. Total costs associated with the 2022 He Whenua Taurikura hui, broken down by item

Item	Cost
Building Security	\$8,087
Venue Hire*	\$84,981
Conference Delivery**	\$155,326
AV Equipment Hire	\$18,150
Stationery	\$1,197
Printing	\$9,684
Photography	\$3,075
Transport and Accommodation ***	\$76,563
Miscellaneous/Other	\$4,264
Total	\$361,327

* Venue hire included areas for the conference, security, media interviews, breakout rooms and prayer rooms

** Conference delivery includes; catering, including for the conference dinner; sign language interpreters; conference facilitator; and other associated hosting costs

*** Transport and Accommodation includes airfares for community participants to attend the event.

Cyber Policy Forum: 7 – 9 December 2022

The Cyber Policy Forum enables Five Eyes policy counterparts, from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom and United States, to collaborate and exchange information on cyber policy issues, with a particular focus on the alignment of strategies and policies to deter and respond to malicious cyber activity. The forum involved approximately 25 core participants and supporting officials.

The forum Chair rotates on a 12-monthly basis and each Chair is expected to host one in-person meeting during their term.

The hosting of this meeting with Five Eyes counterparts aligns with the international pillar of the Cyber Security Strategy (“internationally active”) and is an important part of New Zealand’s approach to strengthening cyber resilience.

The following table provides the total costs associated with this forum, that were incurred by DPMC.

Table 2. Total costs associated with the 2022 Cyber Policy Forum, broken down by item

Item	Costs
Catering	\$9,602
Cultural experience	\$417
Transport	\$687
Miscellaneous/Other	\$1,308
Total	\$12,014

The Five Country Ministerial: 26 – 28 June 2023

The Five Country Ministerial (FCM) is an annual meeting of the home affairs, interior, security and immigration ministers of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America to discuss national security challenges of mutual interest and concern.

New Zealand hosted the FCM in Wellington from 26-28 June 2023. This was the first time New Zealand hosted the in-person meeting. The FCM involved approximately 70 participants from FCM countries, including four Ministerial-level visitors.

The Minister for National Security and Intelligence allocated responsibility for representing New Zealand at the FCM to the Minister of Immigration, Hon Andrew Little. DPMC and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, with the support of the Visits and Ceremonial Office of DIA, led on delivery of the ministerial meeting.

The following table provides the total costs associated with this meeting, that were incurred by DPMC.

Table 3. Total costs associated with the 2023 FCM meeting, broken down by item

Item	Costs
Venue Hire	\$2,685
Catering	\$20,909
Cultural experience	\$1,726
AV Equipment Hire	\$2,267

Stationery	\$80
Printing	\$184
Photography	\$500
Uber/Taxis	\$43
Miscellaneous/Other	\$99
Total	\$28,493

Notes about the data

When referring to the above tables (1-3) please note the following information:

- Costs are quoted in NZD.
- Costs are exclusive of GST.
- Costs have been rounded up to the nearest dollar.

No other events have been identified by DPMC as being in scope of your request.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet'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



Tony Lynch
Deputy Chief Executive
National Security Group