



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

2 April 2026

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Ref: OIA-2025/26-0563

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request: Overseas and domestic travel undertaken by the Governor-General in the 2025 calendar year

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request received on 6 March 2026. You requested:

*The overseas and domestic travel undertaken by The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, 22nd Governor-General of New Zealand last calendar year
Please break this down by overall cost per trip and the purpose of each*

Please PDF any response with costs GST inclusive. No transfer is required for this request as we request this information from your agency only. Reach out directly if any clarification is needed.

Domestic travel

As part of her official duties the Governor-General travels to Government House Auckland and other locations around the country as required to undertake community engagements and perform ceremonial duties. A record of the Governor-General's activities can be found on the Governor-General's website at <https://gg.govt.nz/>.

The Governor-General is not subject to the Act (see section 2). Information that is held by Government House related to the official programme of the Governor-General, including the costs and purpose of domestic travel, is not official information by virtue of paragraph (f) of the definition of "official information" in section 2 and therefore not subject to the Act. I therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act. I note costs for the Governor-General's programme, including domestic travel, are met by the permanent legislative authority under section 13 of the Governor-General Act 2010. Annual costs under this authority are published as part of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's annual report. You can view previous reports here: [Publications | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#).

International and Realm travel

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In the 2025 calendar year the Governor-General's programme of international and Realm travel was comprised of travel to the Cook Islands, Tonga, and the Ross Dependency.

At the invitation of the Prime Minister, the Governor-General undertakes a programme of international travel, representing New Zealand in the head of state role ([paragraph 1.13 of the Cabinet Manual](#)). It is established practice for the Prime Minister to inform Cabinet of international travel by the Governor-General. Therefore, information regarding international travel is also held by the Cabinet Office in addition to Government House for the purpose of advising the Prime Minister on approval of travel and informing Ministers at Cabinet. This information held by the Cabinet Office is subject to the Act.

The purpose of the Governor-General's travel to the Cook Islands and Tonga is already publicly available and can be found in the proactive releases on the DPMC website here:

Tonga: [Proactive Release: CAB-25-SUB-0374: Overseas Travel: Governor General - November 2025 | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#)

Cook Islands: [Proactive Release: CAB-25-SUB-0246: Proposed Overseas Travel: Governor General - August 2025 | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#)

I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis it is already publicly available. As signalled in those proactively released papers, I have decided to withhold the costs of these two visits under sections 9(2)(f)(i) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act. As with the domestic programme, international travel expenses are met by a separate permanent legislative authority under section 14 of the Governor-General Act 2010. Annual costs under this authority are also published as part of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's annual report.

In making my decision, in accordance with section 9(1) of the Act I have considered whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the need to withhold the information, and I have concluded that it does not.

I have previously provided you an answer regarding the costs and purpose for the Ross Dependency following your specific request on 17 November 2025. On 1 December 2025 I advised you the part of your request related to costs was transferred to Antarctica New Zealand under section 14(b)(i) of the Act as those travel costs sat with them. On 5 December I responded to parts of the request remaining with DPMC which included the purpose of the travel.

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

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council

Proactively Released