



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

5 May 2026



Ref: OIA-2025/26-0639

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request: DPMC Governor-General trip to Auckland

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request received on 7 April 2026. You requested:

I request the following under the Official Information Act:

- 1. How many DPMC staff (including their current roles) were sent to Auckland to assist the Governor-General over Easter?*
- 2. What was the reason for this trip? For example, was it an official appointment?*
- 3. What was the cost of flights and accommodation for this trip?*
- 4. Was this non-diary event held at Government House in Auckland?*
- 5. This occurred during a petrol crisis, is this a good use of taxpayer money?*
- 6. Were the Auckland-based staff recently made redundant?*
- 7. Anything else you would like to add?*

Response to your request

The Governor-General and staff supporting the Governor-General in the performance of the Governor-General's official duties are not subject to the Act, and any related information held by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) is not considered official information (see section 2(f) of the Act). Any parts of your request not answered below are refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

The Governor-General of New Zealand has two official residences: Government House Wellington and Government House Auckland. The bulk of the Governor-General's programme is delivered from Wellington, which is where successive Governors-General have spent most of their time. However, the Auckland House continues to play an important part in the Governor-General's programme. In the week after Easter, the

5150819

CABINET OFFICE, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, WELLINGTON 6011, NEW ZEALAND

Telephone: +64 (4) 830 5010. Email: CabinetOffice@dpmc.govt.nz

www.dpmc.govt.nz

Governor-General commenced a block of official programme events based in Auckland, including hosting a series of investiture ceremonies for New Zealand Royal Honours recipients and conducting a State Welcome for the President of Palau. A record of the Governor-General's activities including these events can be found on the Governor-General's website at <https://gg.govt.nz/>, (see in particular in the image galleries and the Governor-General's blog).

In answer to your question about recent changes to staffing at Government House Auckland, in 2025, DPMC adopted a new organisational structure, the details of which have been [proactively released](#). The changes affected all DPMC groups including Government House. Of relevance to your request, three Auckland-based roles were disestablished. Two equivalent roles were reestablished in Wellington, where most of the programme is delivered. A new role was established in Auckland.

When required, resources move to Auckland to support the Governor-General, as has always been the practice. Wherever possible, staff stay in staff accommodation on the grounds of Government House Auckland.

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
Clerk of the Executive Council