



19 December 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2023/24-0301

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request relating to costs of road travel and policies relating to travel

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 22 November 2023. You requested:

1. *What was the department's Taxi expenditure for the 2022/23 financial year?*
2. *What was the department's expenditure on ridesharing apps (such as Uber, Ola, Zoomy, YourRide etc) for the 2022/23 financial year?*
 - a. *If the agency does not separate out taxi expenditure from other ride sharing expenditure, please indicate whether ridesharing or taxi use is the default/most common when such a service is needed and provide and a rough estimate of the proportion of trips that are taken via ridesharing vs taxi*
3. *What was the department's expenditure on public transport (busses, trains, ferries, etc) for the 2022/23 financial year?*
4. *What was the department's other road travel expenditure (running costs of vehicles owned by your agencies, hire cars etc but excluding flights) for the 2022/23 financial year?*
5. *Does the department have internal policies banning their staff or advising them against using ride-sharing apps for work travel? If so, what are these policies?*
6. *Does the department have any concerns about their staff using ride-sharing apps for work travel?*
7. *If the department does not currently use ridesharing, please indicate why not? Similarly, if the department does not use ridesharing as the default over taxis, please indicate why not.*
8. *Has the department purchased any vehicles over the 2022/2023 financial year? If so, how many were electric, diesel and petrol and what was the cost of these purchases broken down by vehicle type (electric, diesel, petrol)?*
9. *What is the running cost of all the department's vehicles?*
10. *Please provide an estimate on the number of kilometers traveled by staff via land transport in the 2022/23 financial year.*”

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) has internal Travel and Motor Vehicle policies that encourage the prudent use of taxis, rideshare services, fleet, and rental vehicles. Please note the figures and responses for DPMC include the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and Government House. All figures are shown in New Zealand Dollars and exclude GST. Travel undertaken by the Governor-General is not included in this response.

In relation to **questions one and two**, total expenditure in 2022/23 on taxis and rideshare services was \$96,924.35. Please note, we are unable to separate rideshare, from taxi expenditure.

In relation to **question two a)**, as we are unable to separate rideshare from taxi expenditure, and we are unable to advise the portion of trips of each, we can advise most of the expenditure in 2022/23 was on taxis.

In relation to **question three**, DPMC's travel policy guidance encourages the use of public transport where business requirements allow. Staff use of public transport is reimbursed when on official business. Due to the volume of items coded to transport this request for information is declined under s 18(f) of the Act, in that that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. We have considered section 18A in reaching this decision and determined that neither fixing a charge or extending would alleviate the administrative burden. Further, have considered whether consulting you to refine this would enable response; however, we did not identify any way to refine this that would remove the administrative burden. Accordingly, we determined not to consult you in this instance.

In relation to **question four**, we have interpreted 'running costs' to mean transport fuel. Expenditure on running costs and hire cars in 2022/23 was \$39,319.56.

In response to **questions five and six**, DPMC's travel policy and guidance covers the use of taxis and app based small passenger services. Staff may use services like Uber for business, as long as the service is compliant with legal requirements, and they represent value for money. Before downloading app-based passenger services, staff must ensure they are using an approved provider.

In response to **question seven**, please refer to the responses to questions five and six.

In response to **question eight**, one vehicle was purchased in 2022/23. Please see the below table:

Make	Model	Type	Cost
BYD	ATTO 3 Extended	Battery Electric Vehicle	\$44,174

In response to **question nine**, this can be answered by our response to question four. Please refer to our response for question four.

In response to **question ten**, this can also be answered with the figures used in response to question four. Please visit the below Inland Revenue Department website, where you will be able to use the IRD provided tool in order to calculate expenditure for the kilometre rates you are interested in. The website link is: <https://www.ird.govt.nz/income-tax/income-tax-for-businesses-and-organisations/types-of-business-expenses/claiming-vehicle-expenses/kilometre-rates-2022-2023>

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.

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

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward
Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement