



19 October 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Reference: OIA 2020/21 0167

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request relating to private aircraft charters

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 24 September 2020. You requested:

"1) How many times has DPMC chartered private aircraft between March 1, 2020 and September 25th, 2020?

1a) Please list which companies these aircraft were chartered from

1b) Please list make, model and registration of the aircraft chartered by DPMC

1c) Please list how many times each model of aircraft have been chartered by DPMC

1d) Please list the rate paid for each of the aircraft models chartered by DPMC

2) Please list how many and which of these flights were to carry the Prime Minister including

2a) Dates of flights?

2b) Times of flights?

2c) From where?

2d) To where?

3) What is the total paid for charter aircraft by DPMC from March, 2020 until September 24th, 2020

4) What is the total paid for charter aircraft by DPMC from March, 2019 until September 24th, 2019"

Between 1 March – 25 September 2020, DPMC chartered an Air New Zealand B787 900 aircraft, registration ZK NZK. This was a return flight that operated on 21 and 23 of April 2020 between New Zealand and Singapore. The Ministry of Transport (MoT) funded this charter flight using funding available from the International Airfreight Capacity Scheme (IAFC). Further information about this scheme can be found online at: www.transport.govt.nz/air/government-support-for-the-aviation-sector.

No other private aircraft have been identified as being chartered by DPMC during your specified timeframes. The cost for the operation of this flight has been withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, in order to protect "the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information". The Prime Minister was not on this flight. You may be interested to know that Ministerial travel, including the Prime Minister's, is typically booked through the Department of Internal Affairs.

As the flights referred to above were paid for by MoT, DPMC has not paid for any charter aircraft from March – 24 September 2020. No private aircraft were chartered by DPMC between March 2019 – 24 September 2019.

In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

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 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



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COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group