



20 March 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2024/25-0727

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official Information Act request relating to accommodation for Government House employees

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 6 March 2025. You requested:

"...In response to an earlier OIA request (Ref: OIA-2024/25-0613), DPMC confirmed that it rents accommodation to two Government House employees.

*Please supply the following information under the Official Information Act (OIA):
[1] Any monthly, quarterly, and annual reports, from the years 2023 and 2024, on housing rented out by DPMC to its employees.*

[2] Any internal policy documents guiding how DPMC navigates its dual role as employer and landlord, including but not limited to:

[2a] Setting rents

[2b] Managing tenancies

[2c] Employee choice over housing

[2d] Purchasing and disposing of accommodation.

If you need any more information from me, please let me know as soon as possible..."

For ease of reference, I have numbered the parts of your request.

Government House is a business unit of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) and supports the Governor-General to deliver her ceremonial, constitutional and community roles as well as maintaining and providing stewardship of the buildings and grounds. The Governor-General has two official residences: Government House Wellington and Government House Auckland.

Part one

As previously indicated, Government House rents accommodation to two employees. Government House does not purchase or otherwise acquire property for this purpose. Rather, Government House rents existing outbuildings on the grounds to these employees.

One tenancy exists at Government House Wellington and one at Government House Auckland. Government House manages these two tenanted buildings as part of its maintenance of the wider buildings and grounds. Maintenance is carried out as necessary and, when appropriate, included in the quarterly reports to the committee overseeing stewardship of the buildings and grounds. This reporting is on an 'as needed' basis and there is no standing reporting specific to the rented accommodation.

I therefore refuse the first part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the requested information does not exist. While there is no specific reporting for the rental

properties, Government House ensures it meets obligations as a landlord and meets the various requirements such as maintaining Healthy Homes compliance.

Part two

With regards to part 2a of your request, Government House sets the rent for the two tenancies according to market rates. Market rental appraisals of the two rented properties are obtained on a biannual basis. There are no policies relating to parts 2a-2d of your request. As such I am refusing these parts of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the requested information does not exist.

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 DPMC 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/Clerk of the Executive Council
Cabinet Office