

13 June 2024

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OIA 29356

I refer to your email of 11 April 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

That is with respect to costs incurred by the tax payer of New Zealand over the past 6 years for any delegations to attend /participate in the Davos /WEF conferences.

Could I please have this matter addressed to please with a response and specific figure.

On 10 May 2024, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 25 working days because responding to your request necessitated the review of a large quantity of information, and due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1) of the OIA refers).

We have interpreted your request to be for costs incurred by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) over the past 6 years for any delegations to attend/participate in the Davos/WEF conferences. Please note the Ministry cannot respond on costs incurred by other New Zealand government agencies.

You were advised on 23 May 2024 that we had partially transferred your OIA request to the Department of Internal Affairs, as they hold information relating to Ministerial travel costs to the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Please refer to the table below for the costs incurred by the Ministry from 2018 to 2024, for Ministry staff to participate in the annual WEF meetings held in Davos, Switzerland, and 'Summer Davos' held in Tianjin, China. We note that the costs for 2018/19 and 2022/23 are for events where the New Zealand Prime Minister led a delegation.

Year end 30 June	Actual costs incurred (NZD)
2017/18	12,002.74
2018/19	44,926.13
2019/20	12,216.76
2020/21	-
2021/22	-
2022/23	22,615.13
2023/24	9,487.06
TOTAL	\$101,247.82

The table includes actual costs incurred for accommodation, ground transport, airport facilitation and meals the Ministry has recorded as being for WEF meetings. We are unable to provide all costs (e.g. flights, accommodation) as they relate to multi-city international travel for purposes other than participation at WEF meetings, and other ancillary costs are not able to be located in our records as they are not centralised. Accordingly, the remainder of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information doesn't exist or despite best efforts, cannot be found.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett
for Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade