

2 April 2024



John Luke

fyi-request-26017-a024a752@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: DOIA-2324-0702

Tēnā koe John

Response to your Official Information Act 1982 request


Thank you for your follow up email of 6 March 2024 to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (the Ministry) requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1) *What database you are referring to and are you able to share this data base to me?*
- 2) *what criteria has been provided by the Minister in this event- Lunar New Year event.*
- 3) *May I also request the draft list you have sent to the Minister office.*
- 4) *With regards to the official invitation, how do you send them out? by email or post, can you please show me a sample invitation that you have sent out...*

In response to your request, the database is a list of external stakeholders that the Ministry has previously engaged with and/or wish to be updated about its happenings. The database contains the names and other identifying information of members of the public. As such, the database is withheld in full under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

The criteria provided by the Minister for Ethnic Communities endeavoured to ensure balanced representation of ethnic community groups, associations, and individuals at the event. Consideration was also given to key community demographics especially those who celebrate Lunar New Year traditionally, including women, youth, faith communities, and regional locations. A smaller set of invitations were also extended to groups that may not traditionally and/or previously participated to encourage dialogue, understanding, and connections. Additionally, Minister Lee changed the name of the event from Chinese New Year to Lunar New Year to reflect and include the diversity of communities that observe and celebrate the event in New Zealand.

The draft invitee's list contains personal information of external stakeholder. Therefore, this information has been withheld in full under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.



There were two types of invitations sent out for the Parliamentary Lunar New Year event. One for the public (this includes diplomats) sent by the Ministry, and one for all Members of Parliament sent by Minister Lee. RSVPs were managed by the Ministry and all invitations were sent by email. Example templates for these invitations are included within this response.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our response to your request. Information about how to contact the Ombudsman's office is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone: 0800 802 602.

Please note, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry may publish responses to requests for official information on our website, shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Edward Firth
Director of Ministerial Services



The Honourable Melissa Lee
Minister for Ethnic Communities

cordially invites

«Title» «Name» «Surname»

to the

Lunar New Year Event in Parliament 2024
Year of the Dragon

12 February 2024, 6:00pm to 7:45pm

Banquet Hall, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Please be sure to present this **Invitation** and **Photographic Identification** (e.g. driver's license or passport) at the registration desk upon your arrival.

To ensure that as many people as possible are able to enjoy this event, only those names on the invitation may attend.

We look forward to welcoming you to this event.

To accommodate registration time, **please arrive from 5:30pm**. This will allow time to complete registration and be seated before 5:45pm. The programme starts promptly at 6:00pm.

Drinks and light refreshments will be provided. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements or food allergies.

For catering and security purposes please let us know if you will be attending by **12:00pm, 26 January 2024** by email to info@ethniccommunities.govt.nz

By attending this event in Parliament, you have given permission to use your image for promotional materials, such as print and electronic media including websites, to the office of the Minister for Ethnic Communities and the Ministry for Ethnic Communities. Should you wish to opt out of the photos or would like further information please email info@ethniccommunities.govt.nz. If you are feeling unwell on the day, we encourage you to stay at home to rest, for your wellbeing and the health and safety of other attendees.



The Honourable Melissa Lee

Minister for Ethnic Communities

cordially invites you to celebrate

Lunar New Year

Year of the Dragon

12 February 2024, 6:00pm to 7:45pm
Banquet Hall, Executive Wing Parliament Buildings

Drinks and light refreshments will be provided (please let us know if you have any dietary requirements or food allergies)

RSVP to info@ethniccommunities.govt.nz by

12:00pm, 26 January 2024

Released under the Official Information Act 1982