



Te Tari Taiwhenua Internal Affairs

19 September 2019

George Benedict
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Dear George Benedict

Official information Act request (OIA 19/20-0178)

I refer to your Official Information Act (OIA) request transferred from the office of Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) on 22 August 2019, requesting the following information:

'there is a number of Crown Limos at various places outside the main centres of Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch (where there are 16, 17 and 5 cars respectively). Which companies does the Crown contract to provide their VIP transport in smaller centres, like Tauranga and Dunedin? And how do these arrangements work?'

Response to your request

The Department's VIP Transport team has a list of separate companies and individuals currently available on a contractor basis to provide services. Some companies operate in multiple locations. Please find attached a list of suppliers available for VIP Transport to use (Appendix 1).

When a request for a car is received from an entitled user of the service, VIP Transport assess the transport requirements. If a Crown vehicle is not available, VIPT will consider using a contractor based on location, suitability for the length of the trip, availability and cost. In some locations where VIP Transport do not have vehicles, a contracted service is always used.

Contractors are generally split into 3 service provision categories:

1. Private hire car-with-driver service (taxi companies or private chauffeur hire companies).
The private car-with-driver service is used for different reasons:
 - To fill over-flow/surge demand, on occasions when there is more demand for cars than there are Crown cars available
 - Where the travel is in a remote regional location where it is not economical or practical to send a Crown car.The private car-with-driver services are chosen through a selection process which includes health and safety compliance and vehicle suitability and fitness.
2. Provision of vehicle types not in the Crown fleet (buses or trucks)
3. Hire of vehicles that a VIPT chauffeur will drive (for example a van)

Background

The Department, via VIP Transport, provides a safe, secure and professional fleet management and chauffeur service around New Zealand for Ministers and other VIPs. Those entitled to use chauffeur-driven vehicles include:

Ministers, visiting dignitaries, heads of state and heads of government, Governors-General, former Governors-General and former Prime Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House, and senior judges.

Entitled users are listed in the Speaker's Directions 2017 and the Ministers' Travel Services within New Zealand Determination 2017; the Members of Parliament (Former Prime Minister's Travel Services) Determination 2017; and, the Members of Parliament Accommodation Services for Members and Travel Services for Family Members Determination 2017.

Ministers are the largest group of entitled users. Clause 2.1 of the Ministers' Travel Services within New Zealand Determination 2017 provides that '*A Minister may use a chauffeur-driven car arranged by VIP Transport at any time for any purpose, at the Minister's discretion.*'

These determinations are publicly available and can be found on the New Zealand Parliament's website at <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/parliamentary-rules/directions-determinations/>.

If you have any concerns with the information in this response, you have a right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. Information on how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Harley Spence
Acting General Manager
Ministerial and Secretariat Services

Appendix 1 Contractor Name

A1 Cabs Blue Bubble Whangarei
Auckland Co-op taxis (Blue Bubble)
Alert Taxis Limited
Avis Rental
Black Robin Transport Kerikeri
Black Robin Transport Whangarei
Blue Bubble Dunedin
Blue Bubble Hawkes Bay
Blue Bubble Rotorua
Blue Bubble Tauranga
Blue Star Taxi (Blue Bubble)
BM Wheels
Budget Rental
Chathams Automotive and Marine
Classic Jaguar Limousines
Corporate Cabs Auckland
Corporate Cabs Christchurch
Corporate Cabs Dunedin
Corporate Cabs Wellington
Corporate Cabs Queenstown
Cross Country Rentals
Crown Chauffeur Car Services
Dial a Cab Whakatane
Executive Limousines Nelson Limited
Far North Rentals Kaitiaki
Flight Cars Limited
Go Bus
Go Bus Hamilton
Hallmark Limousines Auckland
Hallmark Rental Auckland
Hamilton Taxis (Blue Bubble)
Hokitika Taxis
In Style Travel Wellington
Island Shuttle Buses Limited (Great Barrier Island)
Julie Fenning
Leopart Coachlines
Limousine Services
Limousine Services Hawkes Bay
Limousine South
Marlborough Limousines
Maugers Rentals
Metropolitan Rentals
Mount Classic
Nelson Taxis
New Plymouth Taxi (Blue Bubble)
Newlands Coachlines
Northland Rentals
Northland Transfers and Tours
NZ Transfers and Tours Limited
Oceania Coachlines

Ohpec Limited
O'Neill Rentals
Pacific Tourways
Palmerston North Taxis
Paraparaumu Taxis
Paul Dawkins
Platinum Chauffeur Drive
Platinum Transfers and Tours
Reesby Coachline Auckland
Reesby Coachline Rotorua
Reesby Coachline Taupo
Reesby Coachline Wellington
Rental Hertz
River City Cabs (Blue Bubble)
Ross Dumbleton
Samuels Luxury Vehicle Hire
Southland Chauffeurs Invercargill
Taupo Taxis (Blue Bubble)
Taxis Direct, Levin
Timaru Taxis
Tourcorp
Tranzit Coachlines
Tranzit Group Rentals
Waiheke Executive Tours
Waitai Murray
Whitianga City Cabs Limited
Withers Coachlines
Wellington Combined Shuttles
Wellington Combined Taxis

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