



Ref: 229912

Friday, 19 July 2024

James

By email to fyi-request-27553-4e539352@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe James

Response to your request for Official Information

On 10 July 2024 you requested information from Te Kāhui Tika Tangata | Human Rights Commission (“the Commission”) under the Official Information Act 1982 (“OIA”). We are responding to your request in full.

You requested information about travel to Geneva by Julia Whaipooti, the Commission’s Tatau Urutahi, who was attending a session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) at the United Nations (UN) in Geneva. The EMRIP advises UN member states on implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In 2007 the NZ Government indicated its support for the declaration.

Under the Human Rights Act the Commission has a function to make public statements about any matter that may affect human rights. The Commission also has A-Status as New Zealand’s National Human Rights Institution. That means the Commission has speaking rights at the UN Human Rights Council. National Human Rights Institutions are regularly assessed to ensure they are upholding human rights. That includes being truly independent from the State as trustworthy, credible organisations. It also requires active participation in international human rights forums.

The Tatau Urutahi’s itinerary, including airlines, travel class, accommodation and costs, was:

- Wellington to Melbourne economy class on Qantas Airways
- Melbourne to Dubai premium economy class on Emirates
- Dubai to Geneva economy class on Emirates
- Accommodation at Warwick Geneva total cost \$2593.31 for 6 nights at \$432.21 per night
- Geneva to Dubai economy class on Emirates
- Dubai to Auckland premium economy class on Emirates
- Auckland to Wellington economy class on Air New Zealand
- Total airfare cost \$8,826.54

The Tatau Urutahi travelled alone, and no additional personal days were taken on the trip. She did not stop over in any destination other than Geneva but did have to transfer aircrafts in Auckland, Melbourne and Dubai.

Alternative avenues

If you are unhappy with this response, under the Official Information Act you are entitled to complain to the Ombudsman's Office. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or on freephone 0800 802 602.

Nā mātou noa, nā

Te Kāhui Tika Tangata | New Zealand Human Rights Commission