



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

9 September 2024

Ministerial Services
45 Pipitea St, Thorndon
PO Box 805, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
Phone +64 4 495 7200
[Website: www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

Brendon
[fyi-request-28332-
010b35b5@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-28332-010b35b5@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Brendon

Official Information Act request (2425-0265)

Thank you for your request for information dated 8 September 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Inland Revenue which was subsequently partially transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department). You requested the following information:

- 1. Can you please advise how much public money Collected from Taxes goes into funding Members Of Parliament including the Prime Minister and his office Held in New Zealand, it will be interesting to know this As the current cost of living rises and the unemployment rate is also rising,*
- 2. Can you also advise the amount of hardship application withdrawals during the national led government 2023 to 2024.*

For clarity, we have numbered your request. The Department is responding to part 1 of your request as it relates to the salaries of Members of Parliament (MPs), Ministers, the Prime Minister, and staff in Ministerial offices. I understand that Inland Revenue is responding separately to part 2 of your request related to hardship applications.

Additionally, I understand that the Parliamentary Service will be providing a response relating to part 1 of your request specifically for costs relating to Members of Parliament.

Please note, I have interpreted part 1 of your request to be asking for the remuneration of MPs, Ministers, the Prime Minister, and staff in Ministerial offices as per the subject line of your request email. In addition, I have also provided further information about the Services Supporting the Executive Appropriation within Vote Internal Affairs.

Response to your request

Current salary of the Prime Minister, Ministers, and MPs

The remuneration for all Members of Parliament (MPs) is set by the Remuneration Authority, this includes Ministers and the Prime Minister.

Determinations made by the Remuneration Authority set the salaries of MPs for the entire term of Parliament. You can find the current salaries for MPs including Ministers and the Prime Minister in the *Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances Determination 2024* at the below link¹. The cost of salaries for Members of the Executive are met by Vote Internal Affairs (Ministerial Services). Whereas the cost of salaries for MPs is met by the Parliamentary Service.

As the salaries of MPs, Ministers and the Prime Minister are all publicly available, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act.

Current salaries of staff in Ministerial offices

There are three types of staff who work in Ministers' offices:

- Department-employed staff assigned to work in a Minister's office;
- Roving staff, also employed by the Department, although not assigned to any specific Minister's office. They are deployed across Ministerial offices in a range of roles to provide cover for offices in situations of planned and unplanned leave and surge support; and
- Portfolio Private Secretaries who are seconded to Ministers' offices by the respective government agencies (also known as home agencies) to facilitate the management of Ministers' portfolio responsibilities.

The Department's Ministerial Services Group is responsible for recruiting, employing and onboarding of all Ministerial office staff, except Portfolio Private Secretaries, as outlined above.

Please see attached **Appendix A** below for a table that provides the job titles of Department employed staff working in Ministerial offices along with the salary band for each job. The information provided is accurate as of 30 June 2024. This is to reflect the end of the financial year.

¹ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2024/0121/18.0/whole.html>

Additional information

In addition to funding to cover the cost of remuneration for Ministers and their staff, Vote Internal Affairs (Ministerial Services) receives funding for a range of other services that support the Government, current Executive, former Heads of State and former Prime Ministers discharging their responsibilities. The total budget for Ministerial Services set out in Budget 2024 for the financial year 2024/25 is \$76.994 million. Further information regarding this funding is available in the Department's Annual Report which can be found at the below link². I can confirm that the Department's 2023/2024 Annual Report detailing the costs from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will be released before the end of October 2024 on the Department's website.

A portion of this budget is used to cover the payment of expenses related to Ministerial travel. The Department is required under legislation to release aggregated expenses on Ministerial travel and accommodation on a quarterly basis on our website linked below³. The cost of staff or a spouse/partner (approved by Cabinet) accompanying a Minister during international travel are included in the totals reported in these releases.

Additionally, the Department also releases quarterly Ministerial credit card statements on our website linked below⁴. Some of the amounts charged to ministerial credit cards relate to out-of-Wellington accommodation, surface travel, and official Cabinet-approved international travel. These figures have also been included in the Ministers' expense releases for the same period, therefore these amounts on the credit card statements do not represent additional expenditure over and above that in the quarterly expense release.

We may publish this OIA response on www.dia.govt.nz (with your personal details having been removed). Publishing responses to OIA requests increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the purpose of the Act to enable effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies, and to promote the accountability of Ministers and officials.

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 Act. Information on how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Briget Ridden

General Manager – Ministerial Services

Te Haumi – Enterprise Partnerships

Te Tari Taiwhenua – The Department of Internal Affairs

² <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Resource-material-Corporate-Publications-Annual-Reports>

³ <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Ministers-expense-releases>

⁴ https://www.dia.govt.nz/pubforms.nsf/wpg_MCCE?Openview

Appendix A – Ministerial office staff salary bands as at 30 June 2024*

Role/Job Title	Minimum	Maximum
Chief of Staff	Non-banded	Non-banded
Chief Policy Advisor	\$150,091	\$201,138
Chief Press Secretary	\$175,100	\$235,400
Deputy Chief of Staff	\$137,315	\$184,325
Deputy Chief of Staff (Coalition Party)	\$110,559	\$148,124
Deputy Chief Press Secretary	\$115,932	\$155,395
Director of Communications	\$120,819	\$163,461
Director of Operations	\$130,547	\$175,167
Events Manager	\$100,081	\$134,567
Executive Assistant (Correspondence Unit)	\$55,317	\$73,463
Executive Assistant to Prime Minister or Chief of Staff	\$83,173	\$112,528
Lead Advisor (Correspondence Unit)	\$73,297	\$98,329
Manager Research, Communications and Digital	\$120,819	\$163,461
Ministerial Advisor (Level 1)	\$83,595	\$112,263
Ministerial Advisor (Level 2)	\$99,020	\$133,130
Press Secretary (Level 1)	\$84,484	\$113,465
Press Secretary (Level 2) / Roving Press Secretary (Level 2) / Events Manager	\$100,081	\$134,567
Private Secretary (Administration)	\$63,561	\$84,951
Private Secretary (Advisory/ Media)	\$83,595	\$112,263
Private Secretary (Executive Support) / Roving Private Secretary (Executive Support)	\$74,222	\$99,582
Senior Communications and Digital Advisor	Non-banded	Non-banded
Senior Ministerial Advisor	\$119,681	\$161,922
Senior Press Secretary	\$144,458	\$195,150
Senior Private Secretary / Roving Senior Private Secretary	\$105,060	\$142,140
Senior Private Secretary (Inside Cabinet)	\$110,559	\$142,140
Senior Private Secretary (Outside Cabinet)	\$95,326	\$128,135
Specialist Ministerial Advisor	\$148,835	\$200,900
Roving Transition Support	Non-banded	Non-banded

**It is important to note that job titles may have changed over time. The introduction of new jobs, merging of roles, or retirement of certain titles are all contributing factors.*

Additionally, when a role is advertised the corresponding salary band is advertised with it. These salary bands may change over the course of financial years due to several reasons such as aligning the salary with comparative roles in the current job market, or review of the job description/role i.e., tasks and responsibilities associated with a role are re-evaluated and changed. Therefore, the corresponding salary may increase or decrease.