



14th November 2024

Anna Wilson
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Ref: OIA-2024/25-0433

Tēnā koe Anna Wilson

Official Information Act request relating to Ministerial diaries for international travel

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received on 11 November 2024. You requested:

"I am getting in touch with a question about the publication of Ministerial diaries on the Beehive website. In the previous term of Government, these Ministerial diaries accounted for all activities undertaken by Ministers - including their overseas travel. Domestic activities and international activities were published in the same level of detail which was very useful. In this current term of Government, I have noticed that Ministerial diaries now only list "Overseas Travel" with an indication of the days overseas and there is no further detail provided about what meetings or engagements the Minister undertook.

I made an OIA request for this information to Minister McClay's office who pointed me to the proactive release of Cabinet papers reporting back on the Minister's overseas travel. While these Cabinet papers include details of the people that the Minister met with while overseas, they do not show the date of these meetings, the time of these meetings, the duration of these meetings, or which officials or other parties were in attendance at these meetings. In addition, these Cabinet papers have to go through a lengthy proactive release process in contrast to the Ministerial diaries which are often uploaded quite soon after the conclusion of each month.

I wanted to ask whether you knew why this change had been made and whether Ministers are expected to account for their domestic and international engagements in a consistent way? Is this governed by a standing order or a speaker's ruling. You can see the contrast in available information if you look through the published Ministerial diaries of people like the Foreign Affairs Minister or the Trade Minister in this Government and then the last few Governments."

I believe the information you have requested is more closely connected to the functions of the Minister responsible for Ministerial Services, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon. Accordingly, I have decided to transfer your request to the Minister responsible for Ministerial Services under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act.

The Minister responsible for Ministerial Services has the usual timeframes under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

Nākū noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Teague', with a flourish at the end.

Amy Teague
Manager, Ministerial Services