

27 May 2016

Mr Ian Apperley  
(Via [fyi-request-3106-b3291be9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-3106-b3291be9@requests.fyi.org.nz))

Dear Mr Apperley

**Wellington City Council Elected Member Travel (International and Domestic) for the 2013 - 2016 Triennium from Oct 2013 to May 2016**

Thank you for your information request. Firstly, I sincerely apologise for the delay in providing the requested information. That was unacceptable on my part and I take responsibility for this oversight during a very busy workload at the time.

That said, the manner in which the information is held across a number of different business units means it is not always easily retrievable as elected member travel and budget codes are allocated to different units in Council.

Given information is not exclusively held in a manner that is centralised and can require (dependent on the individual request), substantial research to collate, I have wanted to ensure the combination of data requested is accurate, against what has been approved, budgeted and reconciled. To the best of my knowledge that is the case.

Given my delay and your concerns raised with the Office of the Ombudsman, it is appropriate to provide you with information that is as up to date as possible.

You have asked for the following information;

***‘Can I please have information relating to the Mayor and Councillors travel since this Council was voted in late 2013. i.e. The current Mayor and Councillors.***

***A list by individual Councillor and Mayor, where they have travelled (including paid for by another entities trips), the nature of the travel (i.e. sister city visit, local government conference), the cost (if any), and both international and national travel.’***

Please note that ‘Travel’ is inclusive of all associated costs - airfares, accommodation, food, transfers, incidentals that may have been part of the trip requirements.

I have also included all the dates for the relevant committees that approved the travel and reported back on elected member travel where applicable. You can find these reports on the Council’s website. This will provide you with substantive detail and information about the purpose, background and the benefits to the city.

Further you will also note that both Councillor Ritchie and Councillor Sparrow have not undertaken any international or domestic travel during the 2013-2016 triennium up to the time of completing this request.

Again, I apologise for the delay and hope that has not undermined your confidence in the Council process given we have always endeavoured to be legislatively timely with your previous requests.

Please contact me if you have further questions.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Howse

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