



27 March 2026

Ministerial Services
Partnerships and Commissions – Te Aukaha
PO Box 805, Wellington 6140
Email: OIA@dia.govt.nz
Website: www.dia.govt.nz

G Mitchells
[fyi-request-33922-
1054acbd@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-33922-1054acbd@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Kia ora G Mitchells,

Request for information (OIA 2526-0925)

Thank you for your request for information made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) received on 2 March 2026. You requested the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Official Information Act 1982 regarding the visit of the Commonwealth Secretary-General to New Zealand on 13 February 2026.

I request the following information:

- 1. The total cost to the New Zealand Government associated with the visit;*
- 2. A breakdown of those costs where possible (including but not limited to hospitality, venue hire, travel within New Zealand, accommodation, security, administrative support, and event organisation);*
- 3. The locations and venues of official meetings or events held in New Zealand as part of the visit;*
- 4. The titles or official roles of attendees at official events associated with the visit (excluding personal names where appropriate);*
- 5. The stated purpose of the visit, including any official objectives, agendas, or briefing materials prepared in advance.*

If any part of the requested information is publicly available, please direct me to the relevant source.

Please acknowledge receipt of this request and confirm the statutory due date for response.

Background Information

The Department's Ministerial Services business group is responsible for supporting Members of the Executive. The Visits and Ceremonial Office (VCO) coordinates programmes for visiting Guests of Government and other dignitaries, ensuring the delivery of high-quality official visits. There may be occasions where members of the wider travelling party are paid for separately, such as by other Government departments for which the Department does not hold records.

Response to your request

In response to part one and two of your request, I can confirm that the Department has paid the following costs in relation to the visit of Commonwealth Secretary-General Shirley Botchway. Please note these are accurate as of 12 March 2026, there may be delays in costs being accounted for due to the timing of when supplier invoices are received and processed.

#	Type	Amount \$ (GST exc)
1.	Hospitality	1,469.63
2.	Venue hire	1,043.48
	Total	2,513.11

Regarding part three of your request, I can confirm that both events were held at the Park Hyatt in Auckland.

Parts four and five of your request were partially transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) under section 14 of the Act as they are more closely connected with the functions of MFAT. MFAT will respond to you separately on those matters.

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
Partnerships and Commissions - Te Aukaha
Department of Internal Affairs - Te Tari Taiwhenua