



13 April 2026

Ministerial Services
Partnerships and Commissions – Te Aukaha
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G Mitchells
[fyi-request-34159-
2eb24c2a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-34159-2eb24c2a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear G Mitchells,

Request for information (OIA 2526-1002)

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 19 March 2026. You requested the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Official Information Act 1982 regarding the Prime Minister's visit to Samoa and Tonga. I request the following information:

- 1. The total cost to the New Zealand tax payers associated with the visit;*
- 2. A breakdown of those costs where possible (including but not limited to travel, accommodation, hospitality, security, and administrative support);*
- 3. The titles or official roles of members of the travelling delegation (excluding personal names);*

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

Background Information

The Department's Ministerial Services business group is responsible for processing and administering the payment of expenses related to Ministerial travel. There may be occasions where member of the wider travelling party are paid for separately, such as by other Government departments for which the Department does not hold records.

The Department of Internal Affairs is required under legislation to release aggregated expenses on Ministerial travel and accommodation on a quarterly basis on its website¹.

You may be interested to know that the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon also issued a press release regarding his trip to Samoa and Tonga from 15 - 18 March 2026. This can be found on the Beehive website².

¹ <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Ministers-expense-releases>

² www.beehive.govt.nz/release/pm-visit-samoa-and-tonga

Response to your request

In response to parts one and two of your request, I can confirm that the costs of the visit to the Department as of 19 March 2026 are \$2,027.04. These costs relate to international airfares. Please note as invoices for this trip are still pending or may not have been received, the final total cost may differ and change over time.

In response to part three of your request, the following individuals attended the visit:

- The Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon along with his Press Secretary and Senior Communications and Digital Advisor;
- The Minister for Pacific Peoples (up until 7 April 2026), Hon Dr Shane Reti, with his Senior Ministerial Advisor;
- Hon Mark Mitchell (in Samoa only), with his Ministerial Advisor.

In addition, the spouses of the Prime Minister, Hon Dr Reti and Hon Mitchell also attended the trip.

Please note that the Department can only comment on the expenditure as approved in the Cabinet minute for the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs. Accordingly, the information released reflects this defined scope and should not be taken as a comprehensive record of all individuals who attended the visit.

More information on international Ministerial travel guidance is available in the Cabinet Manual³ and CabGuide⁴.

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

³ <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-business-units/cabinet-office/supporting-work-cabinet/cabinet-manual/2-ministers-crown-12>

⁴ <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/publications/ministers-overseas-travel-process-and-cabinet-travel-papers>