



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Manatū Aorere

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Dave Lane
fyi-request-5258-08ce3c47@requests.fyi.org

195 Lambton Quay
Private Bag 18-901
Wellington 5045
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000
F +64 4 472 9596

Dear Dave Lane

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 24 January 2017. Your request was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) on 31 January 2017, and seeks the following under the OIA:

"...I would like a break down of the costs incurred by MFAT on:

- 1. ministerial travel,*
- 2. official travel,*
- 3. legal and policy advice,*
- 4. analysis, and*
- 5. communications*

related to the negotiations and public promotion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and its predecessors (from which it evolved). I would like it segmented to show costs incurred prior to, and following, the involvement of the USA.

Please also include any expenditure related to the negotiation meeting in Wellington and the signing meeting in Auckland.

Finally, please also list any other government agency, departmental, or ministerial budgets which contributed towards the costs of the TPPA process or negotiation in any way..."

Ministerial travel

Regarding your first request for costs incurred by Ministers during the course of negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and its precursor, the P4 agreement, information about travel and accommodation expenses for members of the Executive can be found on the Department of Internal Affairs website: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/About-us-Our-Organisation-Ministers-expenses>. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) as this information is publicly available.

TPP's precursor – the P4 agreement

Regarding the part of your OIA request that relates to the TPP's precursor, the P4 agreement, MFAT migrated to the Navision Accounting system in July 2006 (a year after the agreement was signed) and prior year financial data is not readily accessible or in a format to categorise expenditure by free trade agreement. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) as this information does not exist.

TPP: legal and policy advice

With regard to your request for costs incurred by MFAT for legal and policy advice related to TPP negotiations, MFAT has internal legal and policy teams that work with other government departments and agencies to provide advice. These costs are covered in baseline budgets and are not allocated by activity. As such, there has been no external legal or policy advice commissioned by MFAT related to TPP negotiations beyond that provided under baseline budgets.

TPP: analysis

A linked Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model providing a multi-sector, multi-regional model of the world was used to estimate the economic consequences of the TPP. The modellers used up-to-date information for each country and region, including the latest available estimates of trade, protection, and production. Estimates informed officials and politicians and feed into MFAT's TPP National Interest Analysis, helping to develop public awareness of the likely benefits of New Zealand becoming part of the agreement. The cost of the modelling is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA, that release of the information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Regarding the remainder of your request for information related to the negotiations and public promotion of TPP, we divide our response into two sections based on the phase of the agreement and in line with your request: the negotiation phase and the public promotion phase.

Negotiation phase

Official travel

The first round of negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement was held in March 2010 and negotiations officially concluded in October 2015. We have therefore

provided information on costs incurred by MFAT officials in travelling to negotiate TPP for the years 2010 to 2015 (inclusive) in Table 1 below:

Table 1:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Accommodation	\$43,525.38	\$111,023.74	\$69,969.11	\$285,657.58	\$173,974.16	\$187,101.80
Flights	\$149,696.38	\$543,629.66	\$108,814.86	\$781,797.80	\$329,564.00	\$516,112.00
Other travel costs including taxis, car rentals, meals	\$23,697.57	\$78,793.90	\$326,598.59	\$150,956.00	\$75,622.44	\$140,022.62
Total travel costs for MFAT staff	\$216,919.33	\$733,447.30	\$505,382.56	\$1,218,411.38	\$579,160.60	\$843,236.42

Table 2 provides the costs MFAT incurred in hosting TPP negotiation rounds which took place in New Zealand. These expenses include venue hire, in-house catering, security, accommodation and travel related costs:

Table 2.

2010	2011	2012	2013
\$148,550.33	\$80,654.59	\$256,382.00	\$241,908.00

In addition to the costs noted in Table 1, MFAT also incurred an expense of \$20,970.50 for a ten-day meeting for legal verification of the final text that took place in Wellington in 2015. The total amount included venue hire and in-house catering, audio-visual equipment hire, and security costs.

The signing ceremony for TPP required MFAT and NZ Inc agency staff participation, and included the attendance of Ministers and senior officials from other governments prior to and on the day of the event. There were specific security requirements to protect both the official documents in multiple languages and official attendees. Additionally, a simultaneous translation service was required for participating countries that did not speak English as a first language (for example, Spanish translations for delegations from Chile, Mexico, and Peru). The total MFAT contribution towards the TPP signing ceremony was approximately \$437,000 including GST.

An MFAT official also attend a meeting in respect of the TPP Rules of Procedure for Dispute Settlement and Code of Conduct for Panellists in Sydney in January 2017, for which costs received to date total \$1,745.02.

Communications

Communications during the negotiation period were funded through baseline budgets as part of business-as-usual activities. Baseline budget costs cannot be extracted from our financial system because they are not allocated by activity. MFAT did not commission any external communications work during negotiations.

Public promotion phase

The total cost of public promotion activities in 2016 was \$481,948.76. This amount has been broken down by category below.

Official travel

Following signature, the New Zealand Government undertook a significant outreach programme involving nationwide roadshows and hui to explain the outcomes of TPP to businesses, non-governmental organisations, Māori, and other stakeholders. Travel costs for MFAT officials, attending TPP hui totalled \$32,897.09, and for TPP roadshows totalled \$41,989. These figures include flights, accommodation, meals, and other transport.

As part of TPP outreach, MFAT also commissioned the production of a series of videos entitled *Exporter Voices* that showed interviews with businesses about their experience with free trade agreements. Travel by officials to produce these videos totalled \$2,225.17.

In addition to these activities, MFAT staff regularly engage with business and civil society on a range of trade topics as part of business-as-usual activities, including on TPP.

Communications

Excluding officials' travel, the cost of the TPP outreach events described above are as follows:

- Hui - including venue hire, event management, facilitation - \$38,323.19
- Roadshows – including venue hire, event management, facilitation - \$312,557.22
- TPP business outreach video production - \$11,854.59

MFAT also engaged a communications specialist to work on TPP engagement at a cost of \$84,001.50. The specialist was involved in managing the structure and format of the TPP roadshows and hui in order to ensure the communication and engagement with iwi was informative and culturally appropriate.

Other agency and departmental budgets

Regarding your request for a list of other government agency or departmental budgets that contributed to the cost of TPP, the primary budget for trade negotiations is the interagency Trade Negotiations Fund (TNF), which is administered by MFAT, and exists to support negotiations on a whole of government basis.

Other government agencies and departments may hold other costs related to TPP, of which MFAT does not hold records.

A number of departments and agencies have been involved in the TPP process since signature in February 2016, including through the aforementioned TPP outreach programme. These agencies and departments have included the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Te Puni Kōkiri, New Zealand Customs Service, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Treasury, and the Ministry of Health. These agencies would have costs resulting from their contribution to the TPP outreach programme, and from any other TPP activity they have been engaged in.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely



Joana Johnston
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

