

# Hon Grant Robertson



MP for Wellington Central

Minister of Finance

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

3 APR 2018

Suzanne Newton  
fyi-request-7496-567c0931@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Suzanne Newton

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act, received on 21 March 2018. Your request:

*I would like to know the full amount of the cost to the New Zealand tax payer for the visit of Ex-President Barack Obama to New Zealand in March 2018.*

*Included in this, but not exclusive to, I would like to know the full cost of any travel, vehicles, security measures, accommodation, meals, Special Services, time involved in preparation and closing of the visit, NZ Police special services, signage, road closures, special clothing and other such items, wages for extra personnel, payment to staff and/or others involved, price of any gifts, rewards, or any items given to Barack Obama, and/or any person engaged or connect to the visit e.g. John Key, who may have been paid, received gifts, wages, items or such to be part of this event.*

*In short I wish to know exactly what the cost to New Zealand has been to host an ex-President.*

*I would also like to know what justification, i.e. financial benefit to New Zealand, this visit is meant to produce. I would like that in a dollar amount, as I am sure New Zealand is not in the habit of giving expensive holidays to the now unemployed without some benefit for ALL New Zealanders.*

I believe that the Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services (Hon Chris Hipkins) and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet are better placed to respond to your request. Accordingly, I have decided under section 14(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act to transfer your request to them.

These departments have 20 working days from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Robertson', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Hon Grant Robertson  
Minister of Finance