

20 December 2023

REF: OIA 84853

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

### Request for Official Information: Land Travel

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 November 2023 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- a. *The following information in relation to your agency's use of vehicles (petrol, diesel and electric), taxis and ride-sharing apps:*
  1. *What was the department's Taxi expenditure for the 2022/23 financial year?*
  2. *What was the department's expenditure on ridesharing apps (such as Uber, Ola, Zoomy, YourRide etc) for the 2022/23 financial year?*
- a. *If the agency does not separate out taxi expenditure from other ride sharing expenditure, please indicate whether ridesharing or taxi use is the default/most common when such a service is needed and provide and a rough estimate of the proportion of trips that are taken via ridesharing vs taxi*
3. *What was the department's expenditure on public transport (busses, trains, ferries, etc) for the 2022/23 financial year?*
4. *What was the department's other road travel expenditure (running costs of vehicles owned by your agencies, hire cars etc but excluding flights) for the 2022/23 financial year?*
5. *Does the department have internal policies banning their staff or advising them against using ride-sharing apps for work travel? If so, what are these policies?*
6. *Does the department have any concerns about their staff using ride-sharing apps for work travel?*

7. *If the department does not currently use ridesharing, please indicate why not? Similarly, if the department does not use ridesharing as the default over taxis, please indicate why not.*
8. *Has the department purchased any vehicles over the 2022/2023 financial year? If so, how many were electric, diesel and petrol and what was the cost of these purchases broken down by vehicle type (electric, diesel, petrol)?*
9. *What is the running cost of all the department's vehicles?*
10. *Please provide an estimate on the number of kilometers traveled by staff via land transport in the 2022/23 financial year.*

A response to your request is set out below

In response to parts 1, 2, as Te Arawhiti is a department of the Ministry of Justice we do not use a single code to track taxi expenditure but based on expenditure directly through TaxiCharge (using taxi chits) expenditure we could identify through staff purchase cards, we estimate our expenditure on taxis to be \$37,563 (excluding GST). Te Arawhiti does not use a single code to track ridesharing expenditure, but based on expenditure with rideshare suppliers, including through staff purchase cards, we estimate our ridesharing expenditure was \$57.40 (excluding GST). As noted in response to parts 5, 6 and 7 below, taxis are preferred over ridesharing services.

- a. *If the agency does not separate out taxi expenditure from other ride sharing expenditure, please indicate whether ridesharing or taxi use is the default/most common when such a service is needed and provide and a rough estimate of the proportion of trips that are taken via ridesharing vs taxi*

The estimated proportion of taxi use verses ride-sharing is 99.8 percent.

3. *What was the department's expenditure on public transport (busses, trains, ferries, etc) for the 2022/23 financial year?*

Zero.

4. *What was the department's other road travel expenditure (running costs of vehicles owned by your agencies, hire cars etc but excluding flights) for the 2022/23 financial year?*

| Mevo     | Rental Cars | On-Road    | Total       |
|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| \$215.65 | \$43,248.30 | \$3,500.00 | \$46,963.95 |

5. *Does the department have internal policies banning their staff or advising them against using ride-sharing apps for work travel? If so, what are these policies?*

Te Arawhiti is a departmental agency hosted by the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice Travel Policy refreshed in August 2023 covers ride-share. Taxis may be used where this is the most cost-effective option. Ride-share services (such as Uber, Zoomy and Ola) are permitted but not preferred.

The Ministry has a preferred supplier for taxi service through a syndicated agreement. Taxi services through that supplier are less costly than ridesharing services due to the discounts and arrangements offered by the supplier.

6. *Does the department have any concerns about their staff using ride-sharing apps for work travel?*

None.

7. *If the department does not currently use ridesharing, please indicate why not? Similarly, if the department does not use ridesharing as the default over taxis, please indicate why not. If the department does not currently use ridesharing, please indicate why not? Similarly, if the department does not use ridesharing as the default over taxis, please indicate why not.*

Refer to response to question 5.

8. *Has the department purchased any vehicles over the 2022/2023 financial year? If so, how many were electric, diesel and petrol and what was the cost of these purchases broken down by vehicle type (electric, diesel, petrol)?*

No.

9. *What is the running cost of all the department's vehicles?*

Te Arawhiti is a departmental agency hosted by the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice leased a vehicle for use of by a Te Arawhiti staff member in undertaking their duties. The average on-road costs for the leased vehicle is \$3,500.

10. *Please provide an estimate on the number of kilometers traveled by staff via land transport in the 2022/23 financial year.*

| Taxi      | Fleet     | Rental cars | Total     |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| 13,405 Km | 11,972 Km | 41,472 Km   | 66,849 Km |

When Te Arawhiti acknowledged receipt of your OIA request, we advised that we may proactively release our OIA response on our website.

After considering our response to your request, we can advise that it will be published no earlier than 20 working days from the date of this letter at [www.tearawhiti.govt.nz](http://www.tearawhiti.govt.nz). Your personal and other identifying information will be removed.

If you have any concerns about the information in this response being published on our web site, please contact us by emailing [officialcorrespondence@tearawhiti.govt.nz](mailto:officialcorrespondence@tearawhiti.govt.nz) by 5.00pm on 16 January 2024.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about this process is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or phone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Raymond Hall  
Deputy Chief Executive Organisational Services