

22 AUG 2019

Andrew Crow

By email: fyi-request-10825-1e6605d4@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H201906870

Dear Mr Crow

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 26 July 2019 for:

*"It has been shown that Air travel is a large contribution to global climate change.
I am keen to get measurements or numbers to show what government is doing about this.*

Under OIA I request:

- 1. Total number of airline tickets purchased in 18/19 financial year.*
- 2. Breakdown by domestic vs international.*
- 3. Any internal plans to reduce airline travel.*
- 4. Job titles of the top 5 travellers.*
- 5. Any other information that would help the public understand the department's use of airline travel."*

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) does not hold any information pertaining to questions one, two, and four of your request, and has no reason to believe that this information is held by another department subject to the Act. As such, I have decided to refuse these parts of your request pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act. Please note that this type of data is not information the Ministry routinely collects and reports on, but is instead collated by *Tandem* (travel management company) on the Ministry's behalf.

It is also important to note that under the Act, there is often a cost associated with retrieving information from a third party, which means that it is important for your request to be clear and specific. On 31 July 2019, you were advised that some parts of your request required further clarification, however, we have not received a response from you to date. You may wish to submit another request under the Act for this information, however please be aware that a processing fee may be charged.

3. Any internal plans to reduce airline travel.

- The Ministry is constantly seeking to reduce the overall spend on travel including air travel.
- There is extensive access to video conferencing facilities nationwide. These facilities are encouraged to be used as the first option before deciding to travel by air.

- Successive annual travel budgets have been reduced by a minimum of 10% in the last two financial years.
- The Ministry's Director-General along with the Ministry's Executive Leadership Team closely monitor travel spend on a monthly basis.
- Any overseas travel is kept to a minimum and requires approval of the Director-General.

5. *Any other information that would help the public understand the department's use of airline travel.*

- The Ministry is part of the 'All of Government' contract for Air Travel Services. This contract is managed through the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment.
- All travel costs must have a clear and predominant business purpose and must be necessary to achieve the Ministry's objectives.
- As part of a scheduled review of the Ministry's travel management services provider in mid-2020, the Ministry will investigate options around offsetting carbon emissions.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Yours sincerely



Sue Gordon
Deputy Director-General
Corporate Services