


13 August 2020

s 9(2)(a)



### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was transferred back from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and received by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 9 July 2020 for:

- “1. Between 19 March and today's date, what was the total cost of quarantining returning New Zealand citizens / residents, or those with exemptions, in motels/hotels or other forms of Government provided accommodation?  
Please provide a breakdown to show the name of the hotel or motel and the accommodation, food, room service and alcohol costs associated with each establishment.*
- 2. How many people were accommodated (and at which premises) in executive suites, penthouses or luxury sections of the motel/hotel?*
- 3. Between 19 March and today's date, what was the total cost of security arrangements for each of these Government-funded quarantine sites?*
- 4. Between 19 March and today's date, what was the total cost for organised exercise classes at each of these quarantine sites, including but not limited to "boot camps" or other professionally arranged fitness classes?”*

Firstly, I apologise that your request has been passed between agencies following the transfer of the responsibility for managed isolation and quarantine facilities between the Ministry and MBIE. The Ministry's focus has been on the swift establishment and the operation of the facilities as part of the Government's response to COVID-19.

The total amount spent is \$81.973 million (GST inclusive) up to 30 June 2020. This covers food and accommodation for guests, security, transfers, health and wellbeing wraparound services and direct costs that are not covered in All-of-Government staff baselines, which are met by the respective organisations who provide those staff.

The breakdown details of the costs for each facility has not been consistently itemised by each accommodation provider. This is due to a range of factors such as the way the contracts had originally been agreed upon and changes or refinements in the services provided as we gained a better understanding of requirements. As such, your request for the breakdown of the costs, including the cost of security arrangements and recreational activities, is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as there is currently no mechanism to report this level of information. In making

this decision, I have considered whether your request could be met by fixing a charge or extending the time limit under section 15A of the Act to compile the information. However, I do not believe that these options would be effective.

I can confirm that no one has been accommodated in executive suites, penthouses or luxury sections of the facilities. There have also been zero arranged fitness classes at these facilities.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Kelley".

Jane Kelley  
**Director**  
**COVID-19 Health System Response**