

14 September 2018

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By email: tabitha@taxpayers.org.nz

Dear Tabitha

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987: Request for information

I refer to your email dated 17/08/18 requesting information on domestic and international travel. Your request has been referred to me to reply.

Please find the responses to your LGOIMA request in red below. We changed travel booking provider on 1 September 2017 and therefore obtaining the details for individual trips prior to that date will be more difficult and costly. If you require that information we can contact our former provider to request it. We have however provided information for the period 1 September 2017 to 30 August 2018 which is a full year but does not correspond with our fiscal year.

Domestic travel

1. the total spend on all domestic flights by your Council in the 2017/2018 financial year: \$241,234.66
2. the total number of domestic flights flown in the same period: 1,360

International travel

3. the total spend on all international flights in the 2017/2018 financial year; \$20,998.76
4. a list of each international itinerary flown in the same period, including the:
 - a. destination (s); Information provided on attached spreadsheet
 - b. reason for travel; Information provided on attached spreadsheet
 - c. travel class flown; All Economy except one Premium Economy.
5. costs for each international itinerary, please also provide details of all associated:

The **attached** table provides a list of the airfares, destinations, accommodation cost, and reasons for travel for those international flights.

We do not collate conference fees and staff expense claims alongside travel records and therefore it will take us some time to provide this additional information. If you would like us to provide a breakdown of conference fees and expense claims for these international trips, please let us know and we will do so as soon as possible.

Please note that all staff expense claims are required to meet Environment Canterbury's Hospitality, Business and Travel Expenses Policy (a copy of which I **attach**). You will see that there are rules around the circumstances

in which claims may be made, limits on the value of claims, and a prohibition on claims for alcoholic beverages.

6. For each international itinerary, please tell us if a domestic partner also travelled with the official: Not that we are aware of. Environment Canterbury did not pay for any travel by any staff member or Councillor's partner.

You will be aware that if you are not satisfied with this response you are able to refer this matter to the Office of the Ombudsman under s27 (3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Jamey Miller in the first instance (jamey.miller@ecan.govt.nz or 03 367 7239)

Yours sincerely,



Miles McConway
Director of Finance and Corporate Services