

15 January 2021

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Tēnā koe Jordan Williams

I refer to your email of 3 December 2020, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*"Re the bash on Tuesday night for Winston: I hear MFAT may have paid for it. Please can you confirm or otherwise?"*

*"If MFAT did, please provide a full breakdown of the costs, invite list and purpose."*

On 1 December 2020, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs co-hosted a reception for the Heads of Missions (the full list of which can be found on the Ministry's website - <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/embassies/>) and their spouses, together with the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Rt Hon Winston Peters. The Prime Minister attended, along with other Ministers holding portfolios related to foreign affairs, Members of Parliament, and government officials.

The reception provided an opportunity for Ministers in the new Government to meet the Diplomatic Corps, and to signal the value the Government accords to their role.

In addition, the event provided an opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of Rt Hon Winston Peters during his two terms as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Costs of the reception came to a total of \$11,733. This amount covered a catering package, technical/AV and event furniture hire. The Ministry paid \$5,866.50, or 50 percent of the costs for this event.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) on the Ministry's website.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Nāku noa, nā



Julie-Anne Lee  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade