



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

18 June 2021

Lional Jones

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Dear Lional Jones

Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) Request 2021-0672

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) of 24 May 2021, requesting the following information:

1: Can you confirm if Judith Collins was charged \$171 per hour for the dollar figure quoted in the NZ Herald 24 May 2021, and the PM was only charged \$68 per hour.

In your 2020 Annual Report you note the VIP transport service bring in revenue of \$8.77m against a forecast of \$9.0m.

2: Does the revenue collected from Judith Collins in question 1 contribute to the \$8.77m revenue figure and if so, what was the proportion Judith Collins contributed to the figure against the PM's contribution?

3: What was the total annual operating budget for VIP transport in the year for 2020?

4: The OIA response mentioned above says there is a "separate annual available fee, calculated proportionally against all jobs calculated". Can you please explain what that actually means?

The 2020 Annual Report notes revenue of \$8.77m. I assume the \$68 and \$171 per hour make up that plus the "separate annual available fee".

5: For the year 2020 (and I assume these are all financial years quoted) can you advise what was the split of the hourly fee and the annual available fee towards the \$8.77m figure and if there was any additional fees or revenue that went into it.

I searched limo rates in Wellington and the Limo Club pricing for their fleet show similar cars with an hourly rate of minimum of \$295 per hour. I spoke to their operator and we discussed how you could operate at \$68 per hour if you had to cover costs. He said it was impossible. Even taking into account their profit margin (which I would assume you don't have to worry about) there seems a massive difference in hourly rates. We'd like to know the following:

6: How many hours did you charge in the 2020 year?

7: How many hours were the Crown limos in use but not charging the hourly rate in the 2020 year? In other words, how many hours were they sitting ready to go but not earning?

8: If you got rid of all the Crown limos or vans or other cars you use (and all the associated costs) and just used limo or taxi services, based on the answer in question 6 would the taxpayer have spent less or more on getting your customers around, and by how much? I guess you can assume \$295 per hour for limos and \$75 per hour for taxis. Use your 2020 split between Crown cars and taxis/other services to work that out.

9: Has there ever been work done to consider whether it would actually be cheaper or more efficient to get rid of the Crown cars and just use hired limos and taxis? If so, can I please see the report?

10: What do drivers get paid hourly?

11: What are the top 4 things VIP transport pay for annually and how much in 2020?

Full disclosure: I'm working with the TPU on this OIA.


In view of the consultation necessary to enable this request to be completed I am extending the request timeframes by 5 working days under section 15A (1) of the Act as:

b) consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

The revised response date will be 29 June 2021. If the response is ready before that date we will send it to you sooner.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Morag Ingram
General Manager

Ministerial and Secretariat Services