

# Office of the Prime Minister

## Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence  
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction  
Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services  
Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



A.J. Shepard  
fyi-request-19905-80c98d54@requests.fyi.org.nz

22 AUG 2022

Ref: PMO 2022-211

Tēnā koe A.J. Shepard

### Official Information Act request relating to the Prime Minister's Carbon Footprint and Public Transport Use

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 14 July 2022. You requested:

- "1. How many times has the prime minister used public transport (bus/train) since 2017 when she became PM.*
- 2. How many times has the prime minister used public transport (bus/train) since 2017 when she became PM that was not for a policy announcement, pr stunt or photo op.*
- 3. What is the Prime ministers carbon footprint? Please provide in a breakdown per year from 2017 when she took office through to present day.*
- 4. I request the fuel usage for the rnzaf boeing 737 that the prime minister treats as her personal taxi. Please provide fuel usage in a yearly breakdown format from 2017 through to present day.*
- 5. If any of the above information is unavailable or unknown i request a reason why this is so as the prime minister is extremely concerned about climate change so tracking her carbon footprint should be number one priority."*

In response to Questions 1-3 in which you ask for information regarding the Prime Minister's public transport use and carbon footprint, I can advise this information is not recorded by this office. These questions are therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Act, that the information requested does not exist.

In response to Question 4 of your request, which asks for information regarding the fuel usage of the New Zealand Air Force's Boeing 757 aircraft which is at times used by the Prime Minister or other Ministers when required for specific travel, this office believes this information is more closely connected to the functions of the New Zealand Defence Force. Accordingly, we have decided under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to transfer this part of your request to the New Zealand Defence Force for response.

The New Zealand Defence Force has the usual time limits from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on this part of your request.

While question 5 is not considered official information as there is no obligation for the Prime Minister to create information to answer questions, I note that since 1 July 2007, ministerial air travel has been offset via carbon credits. Ministerial Services administers this process and engages a third-party supplier, Toitū Envirocare to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalents. Based on the data provided, Toitū Envirocare invoice the Department for carbon offsets each quarter.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Ngā mihi nui,



Raj Nahna  
**Chief of Staff**