



6 December 2022

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Francis Cole  
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Dear Francis Cole

### **Request for information (OIA 2223-0402)**

Thank you for your request for information dated 20 November 2022 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department). You requested the following information:

*I would like to make the following information request*

*1. the latest ministerial credit expense of Jacinda Ardern*

*I note this is released quarterly and the latest for Jacinda Ardern is November 2021 on your website.*

### **Response to your request**

The Ministerial Services group at the Department is responsible for processing and administering Ministerial expenses and entitlements.

In accordance with Section 33 of the [Members of Parliament \(Remuneration and Services\) Act 2013](#), Ministerial Services discloses information and documentation on Ministerial expenditure on the Department's [website](#) on a quarterly basis. These quarterly releases include information on international and domestic travel (including spousal travel), and accommodation costs for Ministers entitled to continuous Wellington accommodation. Information on how to understand Ministers' expenses and how Ministerial expenses is released by the Department is also provided.

Additionally, the Department proactively releases Ministerial credit card expenditure every quarter for transparency and accountability, even though it is not a statutory requirement. You can find the Department's latest quarterly release of Ministerial credit expenses for 1 July to 30 September 2022 [here](#).

The most recent credit card expenses for Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern's office were for 1 July – 30 September 2021 which had already been publicly released by the Department [here](#). We are therefore refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act as the information requested is already publicly available.

Since 30 September 2021, there have been no Ministerial credit cards expenses for Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern.

The next set of Ministerial credit card expenses is due to be released by the Department on 2 March 2023 [here](#).

We intend to publish this OIA response on [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz) (with your personal details having been removed). Publishing responses to OIA requests increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the purpose of the Act to enable effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies, and to promote the accountability of Ministers and officials.

If you have any concerns with the information in this response, you have a right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. Information on how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'BR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Briget Ridden**

General Manager – Ministerial Services

Te Haumi – Enterprise Partnerships

Te Tari Taiwhenua – The Department of Internal Affairs