



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

2 April 2024

Ministerial Services
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Dear KW

Request for information (OIA 2324-0701)

Thank you for your request for information transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) on 7 March 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested the following information:

I am writing to query the total amount, if any, that Prime Minister Luxon has claimed in line with clause 17 of 'Members of Parliament (Accommodation Services for Members and Travel Services for Family Members) Determination 2023' since 27/11/23.

Response to your request

The *Members of Parliament (Accommodation Services for Members and Travel Services for Family Members) Determination 2023* is set by the Remuneration Authority and is administered by the Department. The Department's Ministerial Services group is responsible for administering expenses, entitlements and allowances for Ministers.

The Department releases *Minister's Travel and Accommodation expenses*¹ on a quarterly basis. In the quarterly releases you can find which Ministers are receiving funding towards accommodation arrangements and how much they have received for the quarter. Please note:

- The continuous Wellington accommodation allowance is currently set at \$52,000 per year for Ministers and \$36,400 per year for Parliamentary Under-Secretaries and ordinary Members of Parliament. Payments are pro-rated based on an assessment of a Members eligibility.

¹ <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Ministers-expense-releases>

- Ministerial Services pays Members of the Executive their accommodation allowance in fortnightly instalments, alongside payment of salary and an expense allowance. The accommodation payments, as a Member of the Executive, cease when a Members ministerial warrant ceases.
- Members of the Executive who share their accommodation with one or more than one other persons (excluding their spouse/partner and children under 18 years old) receive a reduced payment as below:

Number of tenants	Percentage of accommodation payment payable	Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and Ministers	Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
Sole tenant	100%	\$52,000	\$36,000
Two tenants	70%	\$36,400	\$25,480
Three tenants	60%	\$31,200	\$21,840
Four tenants	55%	\$28,600	\$20,020

It has been publicly reported that the Rt Hon Christopher Luxon initially claimed an accommodation allowance and also repaid the amount received.

It's important to note that in the 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024 expense release there will be no costs associated with Rt Hon Christopher Luxon's Wellington accommodation expenses. Although a Wellington accommodation allowance payment was made to Rt Hon Christopher Luxon he completed the repayment process in full within the same quarter.

Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

We may publish this OIA response on 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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Briget Ridden
 General Manager – Ministerial Services
 Te Haumi – Enterprise Partnerships
 Te Tari Taiwhenua – The Department of Internal Affairs