



2 April 2024

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Dear Daniel Benson-Guiu

**Request for information (OIA 2324-0722)**

Thank you for your request for information dated 7 March 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. You requested the following information:

*Dear Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet,*

*The following is an OIA request as per the Official Information Act 1982.*

- 1. How many nights has the Prime Minister Christopher Luxon stayed overnight at Premier House since taking office?*
- 2. What is the average cost of security and other staffing measures incurred when the Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and his guests stay overnight at Premier House?*
- 3. Has Prime Minister Christopher Luxon paid for this cost (i.e. by invoice, salary deduction, or other means) each time he has stayed overnight since taking office?*

On 11 March 2024 you were informed that part two of your request regarding “average cost of... other staffing measures” and the entirety of part 3 of your request had been transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) to respond.

**Response to your request**

Te Whare Piriimia - Premier House (Premier House) is the official residence of the Prime Minister of New Zealand. Under clause 16(1) and 16(2) of the *Members of Parliament (Accommodation Services for Members and Travel Services for Family Members) Determination 2023*<sup>1</sup> (the Determination), Premier House is the official Wellington Residence of the Prime Minister, regardless of whether the Prime Minister’s primary residence is within the Wellington area.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2023/0195/latest/whole.html>

The Department is responsible for managing and maintaining official ministerial residences on behalf of the Crown, such as Premier House. The Department must provide Premier House with the maintenance and support services equivalent to the status it holds as the official residence, whilst also delivering services to the Prime Minister as the resident.

There are dedicated staff that work onsite at Premier House to oversee the day-to-day management of the property, support with events. These staff are required at Premier House regardless of whether the Prime Minister is residing at the property or not.

No additional costs are incurred for staffing measures when Rt Hon Christopher Luxon and his guests stay overnight at Premier House. There is no requirement for Rt Hon Christopher Luxon to pay for staff costs via invoice, salary deduction, or other means. Funding for costs related to Official Residences is met through the *Vote Internal Affairs - Services Supporting the Executive Multi Category Appropriation*.

Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

We may 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



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