



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

4 April 2024

Ministerial Services
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Lional Jones
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Dear Lional Jones

Request for information (OIA 2324-0715)

Thank you for your request for information dated 10 March 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department). You requested the following information:

I seek all correspondence between Ministerial Services staff, and between Ministerial Services and the Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, around any specific initiatives to introduce ride-sharing using VIP Transport vehicles. This should cover from August 2017 to current. Limit to emails and briefings please.

The Department has interpreted the part of your request that mentions “VIP Transport vehicles” to be in relation to the chauffeur driven Crown Fleet vehicles, which are managed by VIP Transport (VIPT).

Ministerial Services, specifically the VIPT team at the Department is responsible for providing a 24/7 safe, secure chauffeur-driven surface travel for Ministers and other entitled users, and managing the fleet of Ministerial self-drive vehicles.

Response to your request

The Department can confirm that we have no specific ride-sharing initiatives/policies in place that are a requirement for Ministers when using VIPT services. However, the Department does encourage Ministers when using VIPT services to ride-share where possible as a mechanism for reducing cost, increase efficiency, and reduce emissions from the wider government vehicle fleet.

Examples of encouragement for ride-sharing are when VIPT organise multiple Ministers to share a vehicle when travelling to the airport from Parliament when they have similar departure times, or vans that are available through the Crown Fleet which can transport multiple entitled users or a party to an event they are all attending simultaneously.

Therefore, your request for all correspondence regarding specific initiatives to introduce ride-sharing using VIPT vehicles 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 (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