

27 March 2024

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Tēnā koe Mark

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 21 March 2024. You requested:

It has been reported in the Media that when past Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has returned to New Zealand, she had six body guards with her.

- 1) *We assume these body guards are some type of Police protection offered to past Prime Ministers. Would you confirm if the body guards are that provided via a government department?*
- 2) *If they are government provided, please provide;*
 - i. *the number of persons (bodyguards/police etc) used per time,*
 - ii. *how many times they have been used,*
 - iii. *and the cost for this services per use.*
- 3) *In comparison, please outline the same details for the other past Prime Ministers; Chris Hipkins, Bill English, and John Key.*
- 4) *For how long is this service made available to past Prime Ministers?*

Police does not release any information about the protection services that may or may not be provided for any individual, as doing so would be likely to endanger those under Police protection. The information requested is withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- section 6(c) as the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offenses, and the right to a fair trial.
- section 6(d) as the making available of the information would likely to endanger the safety of any person.
- Section 9(2)(c) as withholding the information is necessary to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Police National Headquarters

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Please note that as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police proactively releases some information and documents that may be of interest to the public. An anonymised version of this response may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Gifford', written in a cursive style.

Superintendent Penelope Gifford
Director Tactical Operations