



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Manatū Aotearoa

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Dear Donald Kern

I am writing further to our 24 April 2017 letter to you, and your subsequent complaint to the Ombudsman about our response to your request for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"1. A full accounting of persons who were invited and/or admitted to the New Zealand embassy in Washington, D.C., United States of America, on 17 January 2017 (US time). This should include all caterers and any other persons who are not normally granted access to the embassy grounds (i.e., sovereign soil of New Zealand).

2. A full fiscal accounting of all expenditures related to the supposed "Trump Inauguration Party" held on 17 January 2017, i.e., all expenditures for food, wine, liquor, decorations, clothing rentals, drugs and/or any and all expenditures related to this "party".

3. Any and/or all communiques, letters, emails or other communications between the Government of New Zealand and the New Zealand Embassy located in Washington, D.C., United States of America, as they relate, either directly or remotely, to the so-called "inaugural party" held at said NZ Embassy on, before or after 17 January 2017.

4. A full fiscal accounting of the expenditures of Ambassador Timothy Groser that are related in any way, shape or form to the previously referenced event held on the sovereign soil of the NZ Embassy in Washington, D.C., United States of America on 17 January".

We have reconsidered your request in light of your complaint; please find attached a revised version of some of the documents previously released to you.

Regarding part four of your request, on the expenditure of Ambassador Timothy Groser related to the inauguration event, we advise that this type of expenditure comes from Embassy budgets, is not the Ambassador's spend and is not approved by him personally. You have already been provided with a copy of the expenses associated with the inauguration function.

Please note that some of the information you requested remains withheld as follows:

- s6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- s9(2)(g)(i): to protect free and frank expression of opinions; or
- because the information is out of scope of your request.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely



Wendy Adams
for Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade