

6 March 2024

T Murray

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OIA 29043

Tēnā koe T Murray

I refer to your email of 23 January 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Could you please provide all information to support the visit by Foreign Minister Winston Peters to Suva, Fiji, for two high profile meetings. He met with Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka and Pacific Islands Forum Secretary-General Henry Puna.

Could you provide any cost for department staff to attend with the Minister. In particular flight costs and accommodation.

On 29 January 2024, we contacted you seeking your agreement to refine your request to be for:

- 1. The meeting briefing provided to Foreign Minister Winston Peters for his meeting with Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka in December 2023.*
- 2. The meeting briefing provided to Foreign Minister Winston Peters for his meeting and Pacific Islands Forum Secretary-General Henry Puna in December 2023.*
- 3. Any cost for department staff to attend with the Minister, in particular flight costs and accommodation.*

You agreed to this refinement on the same day.

On 27 February 2024, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 10 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request. (section 15A(1)(a) and/or 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

The information relevant to your request is attached. We have withheld some information under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis; and
- 6(b)(ii): to protect the passing of information from an international organisation on a confidential basis.

The cost for department staff to attend with the Minister is approximately NZD\$6,381.92. This cost includes domestic flight transfers, on-ground transport, and accommodation costs for department staff.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade