

19-D-00073

s 9(2)(a)

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New Zealand Taxpayers' Union

s 9(2) [@taxpayers.org.nz](mailto:s9(2)@taxpayers.org.nz)

Dear s 9(2)

Thank you for your email of 15 January 2019 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I request the following information for the last 12 months (December 2017-December 2018):

- 1. A full list of all Uber rides taken by the Ministry (including costs).*
- 2. A full list of all Taxi rides taken by the Ministry (including costs).*

Travel will always be part of the Ministry's business, as we have some specific responsibilities which require travel – such as meeting with partners we fund to ensure programmes are being delivered, meeting our Treaty obligations and partnering with Māori, maintaining essential relationships, engaging with communities on critical issues like the Zero Carbon Bill, and travelling overseas to deliver on the Government's international commitments.

We are actively working to manage our travel costs and reduce our emissions as much as we possibly can, to ensure we are walking our talk and making the best use of taxpayers' money.

We have committed, by 2020, to reduce our travel by 20 per cent, and we are already actively working to achieve this. In October last year, we reviewed our travel as the first step in identifying areas where we can make savings as part of the Certified Emission Measurement and Reduction Scheme. (CEMARS). These reductions are integral to our CEMARS certification, which requires us to have certified emissions inventories and public reduction targets.

To help us reach this goal, we have capped our total travel spend, and we have implemented new processes to provide further oversight and accountability to managers for travel. We are always challenging our people to find other ways to deliver their roles and use travel only when essential. The Ministry is committed to using technology and other means for people to deliver their roles. Additionally, many of our staff are highly motivated to reduce their own emissions and cycle or walk to work and local meetings.

Attached to this response is a list for both taxi and Uber rides taken providing the date and cost of travel. A summary page of cost per type of payment (credit card, expense claim, expense claim – Uber, and Taxicharge) by month precedes the full list. In the period of information requested, 88 per cent of all taxi trips by MfE staff were to travel to or from airports and, of these trips, over half were outside normal business hours, reflecting the nature of our business across New Zealand.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman relating to my decisions on this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you have any queries about this response, please contact Laurie Edwards, Communications Manager on 027 447 0255 or laurie.edwards@mfe.govt.nz.

Please note that the Ministry for the Environment releases responses to selected requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent.

Yours sincerely

 Jane Shachan

Neil Hurley
Director

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982

Type	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Total
Credit Card	333		28				1,368	47				172		1,948
Expense Claim	51			65	174	144	164	406	104	708	506	1,373	368	4,064
Expense Claim - Uber								51		58				108
Taxicharge	10,875	5,133	10,520	9,748	10,689	12,465	14,058	10,721	12,048	10,584	10,211	13,880	8,944	139,875
Total														145,995

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THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Month	Date	Amount
Dec-17 Expense Claim	8/12/2017	50.78
Jan-18 Credit Card	31/01/2018	26.09
Jan-18 Credit Card	31/01/2018	25.48
Feb-18 Taxicharge	31/12/2017	10,898.40
Feb-18 Taxicharge	31/01/2018	5,133.21
Feb-18 Credit Card	21/02/2018	25.30
Feb-18 Credit Card	21/02/2018	24.35
Feb-18 Credit Card	21/02/2018	83.00
Feb-18 Credit Card	21/02/2018	27.74
Feb-18 Credit Card	21/02/2018	41.74
Feb-18 Credit Card	21/02/2018	26.09
Feb-18 Credit Card	21/02/2018	18.26
Feb-18 Credit Card	21/02/2018	34.78
Mar-18 Taxicharge	28/02/2018	10,520.30
Mar-18 Expense Claim	24/01/2018	65.31
Apr-18 Credit Card	7/05/2018	27.83
Apr-18 Taxicharge	31/03/2018	9,748.48
Apr-18 Expense Claim	28/03/2018	27.57
Apr-18 Expense Claim	28/03/2018	72.70
Apr-18 Expense Claim	29/03/2018	73.83
May-18 Expense Claim	2/05/2018	114.26
May-18 Taxicharge	30/04/2018	10,689.10
May-18 Expense Claim	23/05/2018	29.74
Jun-18 Taxicharge	31/05/2018	12,464.73
Jun-18 Taxicharge	30/06/2018	14,058.20
Jun-18 Expense Claim	22/06/2018	59.13
Jun-18 Expense Claim	25/06/2018	29.57
Jun-18 Expense Claim	22/06/2018	75.04
Jul-18 Expense Claim	7/08/2018	18.61
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	36.96
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	77.39
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	45.74
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	58.00
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	36.96
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	73.48
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	33.83
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	39.57
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	34.17
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	42.09
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	32.43
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	84.78
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	79.13
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	34.00
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	40.35
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	73.83
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	76.26
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	49.39
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	42.61
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	58.43

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Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	73.30
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	57.04
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	41.39
Jul-18 Expense Claim	9/05/2018	40.87
Jul-18 Expense Claim - l	9/05/2018	50.81
Jul-18 Expense Claim	17/07/2018	82.26
Jul-18 Expense Claim	3/07/2018	48.70
Jul-18 Expense Claim	5/07/2018	12.00
Jul-18 Expense Claim	6/07/2018	53.83
Jul-18 Expense Claim	16/07/2018	15.65
Jul-18 Expense Claim	17/07/2018	41.91
Jul-18 Expense Claim	4/07/2018	23.48
Jul-18 Expense Claim	3/07/2018	19.74
Jul-18 Expense Claim	10/07/2018	49.33
Jul-18 Credit Card	7/08/2018	16.43
Aug-18 Taxicharge	31/07/2018	10,720.63
Aug-18 Credit Card	12/09/2018	31.30
Aug-18 Credit Card	27/08/2018	40.69
Aug-18 Expense Claim	23/07/2018	77.34
Aug-18 Credit Card	28/08/2018	16.09
Aug-18 Credit Card	28/08/2018	30.70
Aug-18 Expense Claim	27/07/2018	16.44
Aug-18 Expense Claim	31/07/2018	10.26
Sep-18 Expense Claim	30/07/2018	21.74
Sep-18 Taxicharge	31/08/2018	12,047.96
Sep-18 Expense Claim	17/08/2018	11.22
Sep-18 Expense Claim	18/09/2018	42.61
Sep-18 Expense Claim - l	16/08/2018	16.97
Sep-18 Expense Claim - l	16/08/2018	24.37
Sep-18 Expense Claim - l	16/08/2018	16.21
Sep-18 Expense Claim	16/08/2018	28.70
Sep-18 Expense Claim	10/08/2018	87.04
Sep-18 Expense Claim	22/08/2018	51.57
Sep-18 Expense Claim	23/08/2018	85.22
Sep-18 Expense Claim	31/07/2018	69.31
Sep-18 Expense Claim	21/08/2018	42.98
Sep-18 Expense Claim	18/09/2018	90.09
Sep-18 Expense Claim	11/09/2018	21.74
Sep-18 Expense Claim	17/08/2018	36.09
Sep-18 Expense Claim	15/08/2018	50.78
Sep-18 Expense Claim	15/08/2018	69.12
Oct-18 Taxicharge	30/09/2018	10,583.70
Oct-18 Expense Claim	27/09/2018	92.78
Oct-18 Expense Claim	18/09/2018	17.39
Oct-18 Expense Claim	18/09/2018	23.48
Oct-18 Expense Claim	5/10/2018	42.44
Oct-18 Expense Claim	13/09/2018	21.74
Oct-18 Expense Claim	28/09/2018	21.74
Oct-18 Expense Claim	26/09/2018	66.70

Oct-18 Expense Claim	10/10/2018	120.51
Oct-18 Expense Claim	17/10/2018	26.87
Oct-18 Expense Claim	17/10/2018	37.31
Oct-18 Expense Claim	4/10/2018	35.35
Nov-18 Expense Claim	25/10/2018	81.31
Nov-18 Expense Claim	16/11/2018	33.91
Nov-18 Expense Claim	13/11/2018	82.96
Nov-18 Taxicharge	31/10/2018	10,210.64
Nov-18 Expense Claim	5/11/2018	77.65
Nov-18 Expense Claim	6/09/2018	94.44
Nov-18 Expense Claim	13/09/2018	89.66
Nov-18 Expense Claim	11/10/2018	41.89
Nov-18 Expense Claim	15/10/2018	199.82
Nov-18 Expense Claim	26/10/2018	56.52
Nov-18 Expense Claim	29/10/2018	43.04
Nov-18 Expense Claim	18/10/2018	19.83
Nov-18 Expense Claim	31/10/2018	23.31
Nov-18 Expense Claim	19/11/2018	183.04
Nov-18 Expense Claim	8/11/2018	82.35
Nov-18 Expense Claim	8/11/2018	14.77
Nov-18 Expense Claim	6/11/2018	84.78
Nov-18 Expense Claim	8/10/2018	58.17
Nov-18 Expense Claim	8/11/2018	105.39
Dec-18 Expense Claim	5/12/2018	53.04
Dec-18 Credit Card	4/01/2019	34.00
Dec-18 Expense Claim	29/10/2018	83.31
Dec-18 Credit Card	9/01/2019	26.78
Dec-18 Credit Card	9/01/2019	53.13
Dec-18 Credit Card	4/01/2019	28.70
Dec-18 Credit Card	4/01/2019	29.73
Dec-18 Expense Claim	21/11/2018	66.09
Dec-18 Expense Claim	5/12/2018	61.57
Dec-18 Expense Claim	5/12/2018	46.96
Dec-18 Expense Claim	7/12/2018	57.15
Jan-19 Taxicharge	30/11/2018	13,879.84
Jan-19 Taxicharge	31/12/2018	8,943.55
Total		146,018.88