



11 August 2025

OIAD-1682

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 14 July 2025 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) of the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry):

This is a request for clarification of official information under the under the Official Information Act 1982 in relation to the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29). We request the following information:

- The total number of staff who went, including job title.*
- The total cost of these trips: Please also provide individual costs broken down by activity (i.e. flights, accommodation, entertainment, food and drink, salary).*
- The total number who flew business class and/or had special lounge access.*

If it is known by MfE of other agencies that attended this conference please additionally transfer this request to those agencies or let me know at your earliest convenience so I can pass it on.

Should clarification be required, please call or email. Similarly, if a request proves unnecessarily burdensome in form and we are likely to be able to adjust that request to be more specific or better suited to your information systems without losing the benefit of what is sought, please get in touch. If there is likely to be a delay in the assembly or provision of some of the information requested, please provide the balance as it becomes available.

In any place where possible, data that can be presented in an excel format is preferred to other methods of presentation e.g. PDF. Please make all information GST inclusive.

On 24 July 2025 you were informed that your request was partially transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for response. On 6 August 2025 you were further informed that your request was partially transferred to the Ministry for Primary Industries for response.

Four Ministry for the Environment officials attended the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), held in Baku, Azerbaijan from November 11-24, 2024. Their objectives included: leading negotiation items¹; holding bilateral meetings with key international partners and stakeholders; ensuring the COP29 outcomes reflected latest scientific evidence and information on climate change; and supporting New Zealand's commitment to global climate change action.

I have provided a response to your request in the appendix below. This response is limited to the Ministry for the Environment's costs and attendance only.

Salary information of individual staff members is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. Please note that Ministry for the Environment staff do not receive an additional salary to attend COP beyond their regular pay.

I am unable to provide a further breakdown of individual costs broken down by activity. Staff members received a per diem allowance from the Ministry to cover meals, public transport costs, or any unplanned or variable cost that supports the travel.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of information in this request is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

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

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry publishes responses to requests for official information shortly after the response has been sent on our website at: <https://environment.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act-requests/>. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team at: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā,



Hemi Smiler

General Manager Mitigation Policy | Pou Whakahaere Whakangāwari
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

¹ Including items relating to international carbon markets, transparency, the Global Stocktake, Research and Systematic Observations, and adaptation and mitigation.

Appendix 1: Ministry for the Environment travel costs COP29 (NZD)

	Flights*	Accommodation	Allowance provided	Allowance returned	Allowance spent	Fare type	Lounge passes	Total
Manager	8,247.85	4,934.75	2,275.00	325	1,950.00	Economy/Premium Economy	Personal Membership	15,132.60
Senior Policy Analyst	8,247.85	4,934.75	2,205.00	386	1,819.00	Economy/Premium Economy	Personal Membership	15,001.60
Private Secretary – Climate Change	8,247.85	4,934.75	2,205.00	140	2,065.00	Economy/Premium Economy	263.55	15,511.15
Senior Scientist	8,681.43	4,934.75	2,180.00	507	1,673.00	Economy/Premium Economy	Personal Membership	15,289.18

*GST was not applied to flights.