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Thank you for your email of 29 November 2022 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *How many flights (paid for by the government) have staff taken in 2022?*
- *How much has your department spent on flights in 2022?*
- *How much has your department spent on airline memberships (such as Air New Zealand's Koru membership) in 2022?*
- *How much has your department spent on taxis and Uber rides in 2022?*
- *How much has your department spent on public transport fares for staff in 2022?*
- *How much has your department spent on petrol and diesel in 2022?*
- *How much has been spent on travel for the partners/family of ministers in 2022?*

The Ministry for the Environment is providing you with information in response to your request attached as **Appendix A**.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at:

www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Arun Patel,
Director - Finance and Performance

Released under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982

Appendix A:

1. How many flights (paid for by the government) have staff taken in 2022?

Ministry for the Environment staff took 2,686 flights between 1 January and 29 November 2022. The Ministry notes that the number of flights above are one segment not a return trip.

2. How much has your department spent on flights in 2022?

Between 1 January and 29 November 2022, the Ministry spent \$913,050 on flights. This includes both international and domestic as well as any additional fees.

3. How much has your department spent on airline memberships (such as Air New Zealand's Koru membership) in 2022?

The Ministry does not provide incentives such as Koru memberships to its staff and therefore had zero spend on airline memberships in 2022.

4. How much has your department spent on taxis and Uber rides in 2022?

The Ministry spent \$97,225 on taxi, shuttle and uber related costs and reimbursements between 1 January and 29 November 2022.

5. How much has your department spent on public transport fares for staff in 2022?

The Ministry spent \$251 on public transport fares between 1 January and 29 November 2022.

6. How much has your department spent on petrol and diesel in 2022?

The Ministry is refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

For further context, while the Ministry does not own any fleets and therefore the Ministry's spend on petrol and diesel for use in Ministry vehicles can be easily identified as zero, our finance system is unable to breakdown the costs associated with rental car hires and expenses in a way that allows the Ministry to accurately and with confidence identify the amount of money spent on petrol and diesel specifically.

7. How much has been spent on travel for the partners/family of ministers in 2022?

The Ministry is refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is, or will soon be, publicly available at [Ministers expense releases - dia.govt.nz](https://www.dia.govt.nz/ministers-expense-releases).

The Ministry notes that it does not hold responsibility for booking flights on behalf our Ministers or the family of our Ministers. However, the total financial spend by Ministers on both domestic and international travel is tabulated every three months and published by the Department of Internal Affairs on their website.