

13 May 2024

s9(2)(a)

Mālō 'e lelei s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA059-2023/24)

On 15 April 2024, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information regarding Ministry travel expenditure. I have outlined your specific requests and my responses to each below.

- 1. How much public money was spent on flights/hotels/meals/transport and any conference fees or expenditure for a recent trip by the Secretary for Pacific Peoples Gerardine Clifford-Lidstone to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York.*
- 2. What staff went with the Secretary for Pacific Peoples Gerardine Clifford-Lidstone, and how much was the cost to the taxpayer for flights/hotels/meals/transport and any conference fees.*

The Secretary was part of the official New Zealand delegation to the United Nations (UN) 68th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) in New York. No Ministry staff travelled with the Secretary for Pacific Peoples. The cost of the trip was \$12,665.44 (GST exclusive).

- 3. With staff cuts and a cost of living crisis, what was the rationale for the Ministry for Pacific peoples to approve the trip by the Secretary for Pacific Peoples Gerardine Clifford-Lidstone - and who made the decision for this travel?*

The Secretary was part of the official New Zealand Government delegation and attended with the Secretary for Women. The Ministry has robust policies and processes in place for approving staff travel. These processes were followed.

- 4. What was the value add for Pacific peoples and pacific women in Aotearoa New Zealand, that justified the Ministry for Pacific Peoples decision for the Secretary for Pacific Peoples Gerardine Clifford-Lidstone and MPP staff to travel on this trip to New York?*

CSW68 offers a platform for women to influence global policy making and future international programmes by highlighting their perspectives on key community issues. As part of the New Zealand delegation the Secretary participated in several meetings important to New Zealand's

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role in the region including the Pacific Islands Forum Interactive Dialogue and meeting with the Samoan Minister for Women.

The Secretary also supported PACIFIC Inc. at CSW68, who became the first Pacific women-led non-government organisation from New Zealand to gain United Nations Economic and Social Committee (UNESCO) accreditation for CSW68.

5. *Since Secretary for Pacific Peoples Gerardine Clifford-Lidstone appointment, how much public money has been spent on travel domestically, meals, hotels and any expenses. Itemised and accounted for.*

This information is publicly available and can be accessed [here](#) under the 2022/23 Annual Review of the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (refer to question 96, page 75).

6. *Since Secretary for Pacific Peoples Gerardine Clifford-Lidstone appointment, how much public money has been spent on her travel internationally, meals, hotels and any expenses. Itemised and accounted for.*

This information is publicly available and can be accessed [here](#) under the 2022/23 Annual Review of the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (refer to question 98, page 77).

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some of its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter may be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' website. Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your organisation.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: uia_requests@mpp.govt.nz.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Mālō 'aupito



Ali Ajmal
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Office of the Secretary