



Reference: 23-OIAD-005

9(2)(a)

8 December 2023

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

### Response to your Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 22 November 2023 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*We request the following information in relation to your agency's use of vehicles (petrol, diesel and electric), taxis and ride-sharing apps:*

- 1. What was the department's Taxi expenditure for the 2022/23 financial year?*
- 2. What was the department's expenditure on ridesharing apps (such as Uber, Ola, Zoomy, YourRide etc) for the 2022/23 financial year?*

*If the agency does not separate out taxi expenditure from other ride sharing expenditure, please indicate whether ridesharing or taxi use is the default/most common when such a service is needed and provide and a rough estimate of the proportion of trips that are taken via ridesharing vs taxi*

- 3. What was the department's expenditure on public transport (busses, trains, ferries, etc) for the 2022/23 financial year?*
- 4. What was the department's other road travel expenditure (running costs of vehicles owned by your agencies, hire cars etc but excluding flights) for the 2022/23 financial year?*

5. Does the department have internal policies banning their staff or advising them against using ride-sharing apps for work travel? If so, what are these policies?
6. Does the department have any concerns about their staff using ride-sharing apps for work travel?
7. If the department does not currently use ridesharing, please indicate why not? Similarly, if the department does not use ridesharing as the default over taxis, please indicate why not.
8. Has the department purchased any vehicles over the 2022/2023 financial year? If so, how many were electric, diesel and petrol and what was the cost of these purchases broken down by vehicle type (electric, diesel, petrol)?
9. What is the running cost of all the department's vehicles?
10. Please provide an estimate on the number of kilometres travelled by staff via land transport in the 2022/23 financial year.

The Independent Children's Monitor, Aroturuki Tamariki, was established as a departmental agency on 1 May 2023. Prior to this, we operated as a business unit within the Ministry of Social Development. The information you have requested for 1 July 2022 to 30 April 2023 will be provided by the Ministry of Social Development in their response to you in regard to questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 10.

Please find below a table containing cost information for the period 1 May to 30 June 2023.

Costs (excl. G.S.T.) \$NZD	1 May – 30 June 2023
1. Taxi	937.68
2. Ride-share apps	265.58
3. Public transport (bus and ferry)	277.17
4. Rental cars (other road travel)	1322.41
10. Mileage estimate (km)	8022.59

Aroturuki Tamariki does not record the total mileage travelled by its staff; therefore, this estimate is based on the information provided by our finance team. The total

mileage estimate includes mileage reimbursement claims and estimated mileage by ferry (92km), bus (1.3km), rental cars, taxi<sup>1</sup> and rideshare apps<sup>2</sup>.

When booking business travel arrangements, Aroturuki Tamariki staff are guided by our travel policy. This policy requires that any spending be cost effective, justified and necessary for business purposes. The policy also encourages staff to share vehicles wherever possible, including business travel booked using ride-share apps, taxis, rental cars or using when using personal vehicles for work-related travel.

Since establishment on 1 May 2023, Aroturuki Tamariki has not purchased any vehicles and does not have a vehicle fleet.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, Aroturuki Tamariki publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#). If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact us on [info@aroturuki.govt.nz](mailto:info@aroturuki.govt.nz).

Ngā mihi nui,



Arran Jones  
Chief Executive

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<sup>1</sup> Calculated applying an average flag fall price of \$NZD4, then \$3 per km taken from <https://www.gobytaxi.com/oceania/new-zealand>

<sup>2</sup> All rideshare trips were with Uber and were calculated using an average Uber rate of \$NZD1.35 per km taken from <https://ta.en.aboutlist.org/taxi-prices/nz/auckland>