



Scan for
NZSL name



OIA1873

[REDACTED]

12 January 2024

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request to Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People, dated 21 November 2023, seeking information relating to vehicles and ride sharing.

I have responded to each part of your request in turn.

- *What was the department's Taxi expenditure for the 2022/23 financial year?*

The taxi expenditure for the 2022-23 financial year was \$48,073.88.

- *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*
- *What was the department's expenditure on public transport (busses, trains, ferries, etc) for the 2022/23 financial year?*

Whaikaha does not have a separate cost code for each method of land travel, therefore these parts of your request are refused pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA, as it would require substantial research and collation.

- *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?*

Please refer to Table 1 for details regarding land travel expenditure by Whaikaha in the 2022/23 financial year.

When considering these figures, it is important to keep in mind that Whaikaha has approximately 70 people working with disabled people in the communities of Christchurch, Palmerston North, and Waikato. These roles require our front-line staff to travel to disabled peoples' homes and communities to provide the services required.

As per the 2022/23 Annual Report, approximately 40 percent of Whaikaha staff identify as disabled. This may mean that some staff have specific accessibility



requirements that need to be considered when selecting a method of travel. Not all forms of public transport will be appropriate for all Whaikaha staff.

Table 1: 2022/23 Whaikaha road travel expenditure

Car Hire	\$ 52,483.41
Car Parking	\$ 17,206.89
Motor Vehicles - Crash Repairs & Insurance Excess Claims	\$ 1,245.75
Motor Vehicles - Fuel Costs	\$ 68,559.54
Motor Vehicles - Private Motor Vehicle Reimbursement	\$ 36,856.68
Taxi Fares	\$ 48,073.88
Total road travel costs	\$ 224,426.15

- *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?*

Whaikaha is a departmental agency, which is hosted by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). As part of the shared services hosting arrangement, Whaikaha has access to MSD's administrative systems, services, policies, and infrastructure. There are no policies banning staff or advising against using ride-sharing apps for work travel.

- *Does the department have any concerns about their staff using ride-sharing apps for work travel?*

No.

Whaikaha's travel guidance page states "Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People spending on travel is subject to a high level of public scrutiny. All travel must be able to be justified, and correct approval must be gained before booking travel."

- *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.*

Whaikaha does not hold separate information on the use of ride sharing apps by its employees and does not have a default form of travel for employees.

- *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)?*

Whaikaha has not purchased any vehicles in the 2022/23 financial year. Whaikaha does not own any vehicles, instead staff can use the MSD pool cars when needed.

- *What is the running cost of all the department's vehicles?*

As noted above, Whaikaha does not own any vehicles. Whaikaha has access to MSD pool cars in some locations under the shared service arrangement. Otherwise, Whaikaha reimburses the use of personal vehicles where a pool car is not appropriate or adequate.

The cost for reimbursement was \$36,856.68 in the 2022/23 financial year.

- *Please provide an estimate on the number of kilometers traveled by staff via land transport in the 2022/23 financial year.*

Whaikaha staff have travelled approximately 593,000kms using land transport. This is a rough estimate only.

Thank you for taking the time to write. I trust the information attached is of use to you. If you wish to discuss this response with us, or if you are seeking any further information, please feel free to contact OIA_requests@whaikaha.govt.nz.

Please note, as part of its commitment towards increasing transparency, Whaikaha intends to make the information contained in this letter, and attached documents, available to the wider public. Whaikaha will do this by publishing this letter on the Whaikaha website. Your personal details will be deleted, and no information that would identify you as the requestor will be released.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Hayley Evans
Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate Services