

15 December 2023

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New Zealand Taxpayers' Union
████████████████████

Tēnā koe ██████████

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 22 November 2023, in which you asked for:

'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?*
 - a) *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."*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

Context:

As an organisation we operate in over 120 locations throughout New Zealand including various difficult to reach sites such as outer islands. Travel is essential to ensure our staff are present where and when needed to support/deliver Conservation outcomes.

Please note that we have based our responses on domestic travel only and all figures are GST exclusive.

Response

Your questions and our responses are listed below.

1. What was the department's Taxi expenditure for the 2022/23 financial year?

Our *total* expenditure for Taxis and ride share journeys in the 2022/23 financial year was \$157,932.

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

Our *financial* system does not break down taxi spend to this granular level. We can only report on all Taxi/ride share expenditure under one GL code. Subsequently this aspect of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information requested is not held by the Department.

- a) *If the agency does not separate out taxi expenditure from other ride sharing expenditure, please indicate whether ride sharing 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*

Taxi use is more common than Uber/Ola. For your information roughly two thirds of trips taken were via Taxi and one third via Uber, Ola and other services such as shuttle buses, Mevo and Zilch.

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

The Department spent \$28,308.71 on public transport booked via our travel management company in 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?

The Department's spend on hire cars (including all related costs) for the 2022/23 financial year was \$111,738.49. The running costs of vehicles owned by the Department is answered below via our response to question 9.

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?

The Department does not have or operate to any internal policies of the nature described above.

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

The Department has no concerns with staff using such services, however, in accordance with our internal travel SOP staff are required to consider the following alternatives before using a taxi or ride share:

- Taxi shuttle for hotel transfers; or
- City to Airport, Airport to City bus services (available in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch).
- If travellers are transferring from Wellington Airport to Wellington Office (or vice versa) the Wellington Airport Flyer can be used. Travellers should also consider using shuttles or taxis where appropriate.
- If the traveller needs to travel in the city to attend meetings, buses should be used wherever possible.

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.

As noted above the Department utilises ridesharing platforms where practicable when other forms of public transport are not available. As a nationwide organisation we are conscious that in some regions ride sharing services are not readily available.

When this occurs alternative transport options are utilised. An example of this is Airport buses, shuttles and public transport which are used wherever possible for airport transfer. We also encourage our staff to use public transport and walk or cycle wherever possible for inner city travel.

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)?

Motor Vehicle Type/Model	Quantity	Total Purchase Cost Excluding GST & Rebate	Electric, Diesel or Petrol
Toyota Hilux SR 2.8D 6A 4WD	60	\$2,833,592.40	Diesel
Hyundai Kona EV PE	8	\$450,658.16	Electric
Total	68	\$3,284,250.56	N/A

9. What is the running cost of all the department's vehicles?

The Department's running costs for the 2022/2023 financial year inclusive of fuel, leases, repairs and regulatory costs was \$5,053,000.

10. Please provide an estimate on the number of kilometres travelled by staff via land transport in the 2022/23 financial year.

Staff travelled approximately 8,000,000 kms via land transport in the 2022/23 financial year.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā



CJ Juby
Director, Business Services
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai