

18 September 2023

Oliver Bryan  
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Kia ora Oliver,

### **Overseas Travel and Offsetting Emissions**

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 15 August 2023. You requested the following information:

#### **Mayor Whanau Overseas Trips**

- What overseas trips has Mayor Whanau been on this year and why?
- What has been the total cost to the council of these trips? Please break it down into the flight costs, accommodation, gifts, and any receipts from each of the trips.
- What overseas trips does the Mayor have planned for the rest of this year?

#### **Domestic Flights - Offsetting Emissions**

- How much has been spent on offsetting emissions for domestic flights for the Mayor since her election?
- Is it policy and/or standard practice for the Mayor to offset her emissions when flying domestically?
- Why does the Mayor spend ratepayers' money on offsetting emissions for domestic flights given those emissions are already in the ETS so are already occurring within a capped system?

Wellington City Council has granted your request for information.

#### **Mayor Whanau Overseas Trips**

- What overseas trips has Mayor Whanau been on this year and why?
- What has been the total cost to the council of these trips? Please break it down into the flight costs, accommodation, gifts, and any receipts from each of the trips.

At the time of your request being received, 15 August 2023, Mayor Whanau had been on one overseas trip, the details of which are below.

#### July 2023

Mayor Whanau was a guest at The Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative held in New York City. The Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative—the flagship program of the Bloomberg Centre for Cities at Harvard University—is a collaboration between Harvard Kennedy School,

Harvard Business School, and Bloomberg Philanthropies to equip mayors and senior city officials to tackle complex challenges in their cities and improve the quality of life of their residents.

With respect to costs, all travel, accommodation, and most meals were provided by Bloomberg as part of the City Leadership programme.

The costs incurred by Wellington City Council for the Mayor's trip were:

- Taxi fares to and from Wellington CBD to airport \$97.31
- USA visa waiver fee: USD\$84.00
- NZ to USA travel adaptor: NZ\$34.99

Attached to this response is a document titled 'Appendix 1' which contains receipts for the taxi fares, USA visa and travel adaptor mentioned above. Some information has been redacted under section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, as it contains personal information about private individuals.

- What overseas trips does the Mayor have planned for the rest of this year?

The Mayor is travelling to China, Japan, and South Korea along with a Wellington business delegation from 17 – 28 September. Details of this are publicly available as part of the agenda of the [Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee](#) meeting on 29 June 2023, page 219.

### **Domestic Flights - Offsetting Emissions**

- How much has been spent on offsetting emissions for domestic flights for the Mayor since her election?

A voluntary \$100 offset payment was made in July covering one international (Wellington – New York) and two domestic return flights.

- Is it policy and/or standard practice for the Mayor to offset her emissions when flying domestically?

There is no formal policy for offsetting domestic flights.

- Why does the Mayor spend ratepayers' money on offsetting emissions for domestic flights given those emissions are already in the ETS so are already occurring within a capped system?

Carbon offsets were purchased as a contribution to Wellington City Council's zero carbon goal. More information about this can be found [here](#).

### **Right of review**

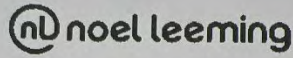
If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note, we may proactively release our response to your request with your personal information removed.

Thank you again for your request, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Ollie Marchant  
**Official Information**



TAX INVOICE GST REG. NO. 41-482-354  
 13/07/23 10:03:59 Featherston Street  
 Phone No.: 0800 444 488 3F:01:0006  
 S/Person.: 34001 Invoice: 153783896  
 Salesperson : REECE D S

===== SALE =====  
 wellington city council  
 201 Landfill Road  
 Owhiro Bay  
 Wellington 06023  
 Mob: 021 063 1597

216137 OTB TRAVEL 2.1A USA CANADA  
 1 @ \$ 34.99 15.0% \$ 34.99

Total Sale : \$ 34.99

Payment By Visa \$ 34.99

Change Given : \$ 0.00

PRICES INCLUDE G.S.T. AT RATE SHOWN



Thank you for shopping at Noel Leeming.

We are happy to exchange or credit (as a Gift Card) within 14 days of purchase if the product is in its original condition and not on the Product Exclusion List. Please visit [www.noelleeming.co.nz](http://www.noelleeming.co.nz) for details.

If the goods are faulty we will meet our obligations under the Consumer Guarantees Act to provide a solution. Please refer to our website (<https://www.noelleeming.co.nz/help/terms-and-conditions>)

Wellington City Council  
 Attn: Payment Services  
 PO Box 2199  
 Wellington



**TaxiCharge New Zealand Limited**  
 Private Bag 99931, Newmarket, Auckland  
 Phone 09 306 1790  
 Fax 09 306 1619  
[www.taxicharge.co.nz](http://www.taxicharge.co.nz)

Date: 31/07/2023 Page: 11 of 14  
 Account Number: 30812012142  
 GST No. 81-319-715  
 Invoice No. 4121423123

**CONSOLIDATED TAX INVOICE AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Voucher Number	Merchant Tax Code	Trans Date	Trans Time	Trip From	Trip To	Narrative	Total Excl GST	GST	Total
<b>Cost Centre 272</b>									
<b>Voucher Card</b>									
1793783	61517264	22/07/2023	08:39	Wellington Airport	Dixon/Boulcott Area	Mayor Tory Whanau	37.83	5.67	43.50
1793783	61517264	15/07/2023	14:42	Manner St Area	Wellington Airport	Mayor Tory Whanau	40.52	6.08	46.60
<b>Card Total (Excl Administration Fees)</b>							<b>78.35</b>	<b>11.75</b>	<b>90.10</b>
<b>Administration Fees</b>							<b>6.27</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>7.21</b>
<b>Card Total</b>							<b>84.62</b>	<b>12.69</b>	<b>97.31</b>

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Your USA ESTA Authorization receipt

**\$84.00 USD**

USA ESTA NZ: TORY AWATERE  
WHANAU

 Ending 

Jul 07, 2023


We have successfully received your payment for your electronic travel authorization. Your details are being reviewed and processed to generate approval. Your authorization to travel number will be sent via email. Please allow up to 72 hours.

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**USA ESTA Authorization**

[payments@electronictravelauthorisation.com](mailto:payments@electronictravelauthorisation.com)

Payment Reference: UE8021511

 Pin Payments

Simple payments  
for any business