



06 May 2020

Official information request number 8140005959
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

[REDACTED]

Dear Sara

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Re: Flights and International trips 2018- 2019

Further to Auckland Council's response dated 14 February 2020, please find Regional Facilities Auckland's international travel information for the 2018/2019 financial year below.

As we noted in our earlier response, Regional Facilities Auckland (RFA) manages six separate divisions (Auckland Live, Auckland Conventions, Auckland Zoo, Auckland Stadiums, Auckland Art Gallery and the New Zealand Maritime Museum), all of which have an international focus and undertook significant commercial activity in order to deliver on RFA's Statement of Intent. In addition, our corporate office supports activity and systems across all the divisions.

This activity includes:

- negotiating with international promoters to bring events to Auckland
- working with galleries and collections throughout the world to present large international exhibitions
- attending trade shows to showcase the iconic venues that we manage and secure conventions and live entertainment business
- developing international networks and best practice that enable RFA to deliver effective regional leadership. In particular, developing and managing sports and cultural sectors including the facilities owned by the city that support these sectors
- participating in key international bodies, conservation and pest programmes associated with Auckland Zoo.

RFA operates a commercial business model. External revenue from commercial activities amounted to 60% of RFA's income, with the balance funded by ratepayers. Investment in attracting this external revenue, including international travel, networking and hosting of existing and potential clients, is essential to supporting RFA's commercial remit and standard business practice in these competitive sectors. RFA's commercial revenue grew from \$45.8m in 2012 to \$53.8m in 2019.

The attached (Attachment A) spreadsheet includes the international itinerary details, associated costs (as advised by our travel provider), and third-party travel as part of a third-party agreement where costs have not been reimbursed.

The spreadsheet provides a list of each trip's international itinerary over the period, including:

1. destination(s)
2. reason for travel
3. travel class flown.

Flights and costs that have been reimbursed by a third-party have been excluded. Associated costs including hotel costs booked through the travel provider are included, as well as actual foreign exchange used, where foreign exchange has been obtained through our travel provider.

Domestic partner travel

Most staff did not travel with a partner or family member. Where a partner or family member did accompany the staff member on their travel, their costs were not paid for by RFA. There is one exception where family member travel was part of a relocation package.

Cost of international travel in the 2018/2019 financial year

| | Total |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Regional Facilities Auckland | \$235,119.41* |

*Total cost includes tickets, exchanges, EMD and refunds as advised by the travel provider.

Since our response to your last travel information request, we have refined our information gathering and reporting processes. Travel information for the 2018/19 financial year reflects travel **ticketed/ taken**, rather than travel **invoiced** during that period (which is what we provided for the 2017/18 financial year).

The travel figures provided are sourced from our travel provider. We have not provided information about travel that is not ticketed or booked through our travel provider. The above costs are accounted for across different financial systems and we are unable to manually extract these costs to a trip without substantial collation. Conference costs and associated costs including hotel costs outside of that booked through the travel provider are not coded in a way to easily find the information. To attempt to manually match conference costs and other costs to a trip, would amount to substantial collation and under section 17(f) of the LGOIMA is being refused.

Please note that RFA is working to publish travel information proactively on a regular basis.

Decisions relating to the information that is being released to you were made by the Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer for RFA.

Should you believe Auckland Council has not responded appropriately to your request, you have the right by way of complaint, under section 27(3) of the LGOIMA, to apply to the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of the decision.

Yours sincerely



Elizabeth Chatterton
Privacy & LGOIMA Manager
Democracy Services