

29 January 2024

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 22 November 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about Corrections' expenditure on vehicles, taxis and ridesharing apps. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections employs approximately 10,000 staff across 200 locations including prisons, Community Corrections sites, and regional and corporate offices. Nearly 90% of our staff are employed in frontline roles to help people change their lives for the better and keep the public safe. We are always conscious of the need to deliver value for money for taxpayers, while maintaining our commitment to reducing reoffending and keeping the public safe.

Corrections routinely reports on the expenditure associated with our vehicle fleet and a list of all vehicles to the Justice Select Committee as part of the Estimates Examination and Annual Review process. Information on Corrections vehicle fleet can be found here:

- [Capital spend on vehicles, page 51](#)
- [2022/23 Appendix 4 – Vehicles owned by office](#)

You requested:

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?*

The table below shows Corrections' expenditure on taxis, ridesharing apps, public transport and car hire for the 2022/23 financial year.

Taxis	\$876,903
Ridesharing apps	\$2,029
Public transport*	\$339,559
Car hire	\$1,192,082

Please note these costs have been identified through the PCard and CTM (Corrections' travel booking) systems. There may be additional transport costs, such as those claimed through staff expenditure claims, however, this information is not readily retrievable and would require a detailed, line by line analysis of individual claims to determine expenditure. This process would involve substantial collation and is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In accordance with section 18A and 18B of the OIA, we have considered whether fixing a charge, extending the time limit or asking you to refine or amend your request would enable us to provide a response. However, given the scale of the request, we do not consider this would be an appropriate use of our publicly funded resources.

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?*

Our travel policy guidance directs staff to use BlueBubble Taxis (an alliance of 16 taxi companies) and states Uber and other rideshare providers are not currently approved ground transfer options for staff business travel. As you will note from the table above, there are a small number of cases where staff have used ridesharing apps over the 2022/23 period. This is mostly for short notice, short distance travel.

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.*

Corrections is currently investigating the use of Uber for business, but until all privacy and security investigations have been completed to support a business case, the service will not be onboarded. Staff protection around the use of these tools for business is of paramount importance.

* Includes bus services for new recruits attending Corrections' National Learning Centre.

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?*

As mentioned above, Corrections routinely reports on this information to the Justice Select Committee as part of the Estimates Examination and Annual Review process. Information relating to the 2022/23 financial year will be available soon and is therefore refused under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information you have requested will soon be publicly available.

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

We are unable to answer this question as receipts from land transport options do not specify total kilometres travelled. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

In addition, while departmental logbooks are kept for Corrections owned vehicles, in order to answer your question, we would be required to manually review these to determine distance travelled. This would require manual collation and assurance and is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In accordance with section 18A and 18B of the OIA, we have considered whether fixing a charge, extending the time limit or asking you to refine or amend your request would enable us to provide a response. However, given the scale of the request, we do not consider this would be an appropriate use of our publicly funded resources.

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published quarterly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response with Corrections. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi



Alice Sciascia
Deputy Chief Executive
Finance, Planning and Assurance