

Understanding Ministers' Expenses (after 2014)

Information on the expenses disclosed by the Department of Internal Affairs for members of the Executive.

Statutory framework

Members of the Executive (Ministers of the Crown) require financial resources and support services to fulfil their responsibilities and to service the public efficiently and effectively.

Under the provisions of the Members of Parliament (Remuneration and Services) Act 2013, services for Ministers are determined variously by the Remuneration Authority, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services. Where no additional or alternative provision is made for Ministers under the Remuneration Authority's, or the Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services' determinations, Ministers' entitlements are as for those members of Parliament who are also not ministers.

Services determined by the Remuneration Authority

The Remuneration Authority determines entitlements to accommodation services within New Zealand, including any entitlement of Ministers to accommodation services within New Zealand that are additional or alternative to those determined for members of Parliament, and travel services within New Zealand for Ministers' family members (as per the Accommodation Services for Members and Travel Services for Family Members and Former Prime Ministers) Determination 2014).

Services and funding subject to Speaker's Directions

The Speakers Directions include entitlements to travel services within New Zealand, administrative and support services to support members' parliament operations and communication services (as per the Directions by the Speaker of the House of Representatives 2014).

Services determined by the Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

The Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services determines the entitlement of Ministers to all travel services within New Zealand that are **additional or alternative** to the travel services for members of Parliament set out in the Speaker's Directions. These are specified in the Ministers' Travel Services within New Zealand Determination 2014.

Travel services for members of the Executive travelling within New Zealand are provided by virtue of the Speaker's Directions with costs met from Vote Internal Affairs.

The summary of expenses does not include expenses paid for by the Parliamentary Service. Information on these is disclosed separately by the Parliamentary Service at:

<http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/mpp/mps/expenses>

Under the Public Finance Act 1989 the Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services is the Portfolio Minister and the Minister of Internal Affairs the Vote Minister.

The Department of Internal Affairs' policies and administrative processes provide accountability for the way in which Ministerial Services funds are appropriated.

Period of disclosure

The expenses shown in the attached table were brought to charge in the period covered by the release as per the records held in the Department of Internal Affairs' financial system.

Accounting processes mean that costs in the financial system for each month do not always reflect expenses incurred in that month.

Information disclosed

Expense categories for members of the Executive include:

- **Air travel**
 - **Domestic** – airfares for members of the Executive.
 - **International** – expenses include airfares, accommodation, internal travel, receptions and related travel costs as these costs are not recorded separately.

International travel for members of the Executive is funded from Vote Internal Affairs - Members of the Executive Travel (M47) is approved by Cabinet or in the case of travel to Australia, by the Prime Minister. Travel expenses shown may include costs for the Minister and any accompanying spouse, staff, members of Parliament or students where relevant, as these costs are not recorded separately.

- **Surface travel** – expenses include VIP Transport Services (Chauffeur drive and self drive vehicles), ferry, trains, taxis and may include the Minister, spouse/partner, accompanying staff as these costs are not recorded separately.
- **Wellington accommodation** – The Department of Internal Affairs attends to the Wellington accommodation requirements of Ministers with a non-Wellington home base in two ways:
 1. Official Residences. The Department of Internal Affairs manages, maintains and services a small number of official residences owned by the Crown.
 2. Wellington Accommodation Payment.

Further information on the Wellington Accommodation Payment can be found in the Prime Minister's announcement of 7 September 2009:

www.beehive.govt.nz/release/ministerial+accommodation+decisions+announced

- **Out of Wellington Travel Expenses** – includes hotel, meal and incidental expenses for members of the Executive.

All expenses are exclusive of GST, Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) and depreciation as applicable.

Ongoing Disclosure of members' of the Executive expenses

The Department of Internal Affairs will provide future information on the expenses of members of the Executive on a quarterly basis.