




EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

12 October 2023



Ref: OIA OIA-2023/24-0225

Tēnā koe 

Official Information Act request:  Costs for the King of England being NZ's Head of State and for NZ to become a republic

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 4 October 2023. You requested:

"I would also like to know how much do we still pay towards England being they are the head of our state still in this day and age. I read the upkeep for the governor General house and their salary etc is 11mil per year is this correct?"

I would also like to know how much it would cost for NZ to become a republic and no longer require the king to be head of state."

Section 2 of the Constitution Act 1986 states that the Sovereign in right of New Zealand is the head of State of New Zealand. The effect of this is that King Charles III is King of New Zealand and is our head of State in that capacity, not as King of England.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet does not hold any information relating to costs paid towards England in relation to the King as New Zealand's head of State. I therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet does not hold the information requested and has no reason to believe that it is held by another Minister, department or organisation.

The costs of supporting the Governor-General are published in DPMC's Annual Reports, and are publicly available. These include the costs for the Governor-General's programme, salary and allowance, and travel outside New Zealand, as well as the costs of depreciation and maintenance of Government House buildings and related assets, and capital expenditure on Government House. The most recent annual report published is for the 2021/2022 year and can be viewed here [Annual Report 2021/22 | Pūrongo-ā-tau | for the year ended 30 June 2022 \(dpmc.govt.nz\)](#). The annual report for the 2022/2023 year will be made available on the same website.

The 2021/2022 annual report includes the actual expenditure on depreciation and maintenance of Government House buildings and related assets for that financial year as \$1.68 million. Capital expenditure was \$464,000.

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The Governor-General's salary determination is also published each year on the New Zealand Legislation website. The current determination is available here [Governor-General \(Salary\) Determination 2022 \(SL 2022/274\) Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#). The Governor-General's salary is currently set at \$384,600 a year.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet does not hold any information relating to how much it would cost for New Zealand to become a republic. I therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet does not hold the information requested and has no reason to believe that it is held by another Minister, department or organisation.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā



Rachel Hayward
Clerk of the Executive Council