



9 November 2023



Ref: OIA-2023/24-0245

Dear 

**Official Information Act request relating to expenses incurred by Stuart Nash from 28 March to 3 April 2023**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 16 October 2023. You requested:

*Under the OIA please provide the following:*

*A broken down by category list of expenses incurred by Stuart Nash for the following areas from the date that he was stripped of his Ministerial portfolios in mid-March up until the day before he announced that he was not standing again as the local Napier MP for the 2023 election:*

- Accommodation (outside of accommodation in Wellington as a sitting MP) e.g. accommodation in Auckland, Christchurch etc*
- Personal accommodation in Wellington i.e. not accommodation related to parliamentary business as the Napier electorate MP*
- NZ Airfare expenses on all flights over than between Napier and Wellington*
- NZ Airfare expenses between Napier and Wellington for him for personal reasons i.e. not flying down to Wellington for parliamentary business as the local Napier MP.*
- NZ Airfare expenses for any of his family*
- Any overseas expenses for Stuart, including breakdown for airfares and accommodation*
- Any overseas expenses for Stuart's family, including breakdown for airfares and accommodation*
- Any expenses for entertainment with a breakdown of the categories e.g. alcohol \$123, restaurant meals \$456*
- From the date that Stuart was stripped of his Ministerial positions how many additional days did he continue to receive an Ministers salary before dropping down to a backbench MP's salary. And what was the dollar amount of his salary as a Minister vs the amount that he then dropped down to as a backbench MP.*

*From the 3/4/2023 being the date that Stuart announced that he was not seeking re-election as the Napier electorate MP, broken down into category list of expenses for:*

- Accommodation (outside of accommodation in Wellington as a sitting MP) e.g. accommodation in Auckland, Christchurch etc*

- *Personal accommodation in Wellington i.e. not accommodation related to parliamentary business as the Napier electorate MP*
- *NZ Airfare expenses on all flights over than between Napier and Wellington. i.e. not flying down to Wellington for parliamentary business as the local Napier MP.*
- *NZ Airfare expenses between Napier and Wellington for him for personal reasons i.e. not flying down to Wellington for parliamentary business*
- *NZ Airfare expenses for any of his family*
- *Any overseas expenses for Stuart, including breakdown for airfares and accommodation*
- *Any overseas expenses for Stuart's family, including breakdown for airfares and accommodation*
- *Any expenses for entertainment with a breakdown of the categories e.g. alcohol \$123, restaurant meals \$456*

*My understanding is that if an MP elects to step down effective from the end of their parliamentary term that they received an perk of three months of salary. Please advise what the length of this entitlement is and in the case of Stuart what was the taxpayer amount that will be paid out to him for this 'severance pay'. E.g. he receives three months salary equating to \$XYZ dollars in total. Please also advise if he is entitled to any further perks during that additional pay period and if so what e.g. is he entitled to free domestic air travel during that period.*

*What was the earliest alternative date that Stuart could have resigned from as the Napier MP without the need to trigger a by-election in the Napier seat?*

*Chris Hipkins when Prime Minister made a lot of noise about NZ being in a 'cost of living crisis'. Therefore there is a compelling public interest in ascertaining if Stuart used taxpayer funding for any of the above for the periods when he was no longer a government Minister and then from 3/4/2023 he announced that he would not be seeking re-election as the Napier MP. Put simply did Stuart take advantage of taxpayer money whilst counting down the clock on his parliamentary career and if so by how much."*

You have requested information relating to Stuart Nash in his Capacity as a Member of Parliament. This information is not considered Official Information as per section 2 of the Act. The Official Information Act only applies to information held by a Minister of the Crown, in their official capacity. Official information does not include information held by an MP.

The Remuneration Authority sets the pay for public office holders. Parliamentary Services and Office of the Clerk manage expenses for Members of Parliament. Some of the information that you may be interested in is publicly available here [Members' expense disclosure from 1 April to 30 June 2023 - New Zealand Parliament \(www.parliament.nz\)](http://www.parliament.nz) and here, [Ministers expense releases - dia.govt.nz](http://dia.govt.nz). I hope this is helpful to you.

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.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward  
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**Strategy, Governance and Engagement**