


27 October 2023



Kia ora 

### **Mayoral Delegation to Asia**

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 19 September 2023. With respect to the Mayoral Delegation to Asia, you requested the following information:

1. Who are the four staff involved? What are their positions in the council? Which of them speaks Chinese language(s)?
2. What airline are the mayor and staffers flying on?
3. What class of flight are they using i.e., economy, premium economy, or business class?
4. Is any part of the cost of the airfreight being paid by parties other than WCC, if so, who?
5. Is any part of the accommodation while in Asia being paid by another party, if so, who?
6. In respect of the other non WCC staffers on this trip is any part of their travel being paid for directly or indirectly by WCC?

Wellington City Council has partly granted your request for information.

#### **Question 1 - Who are the four staff involved? What are their positions in the council? Which of them speaks Chinese language(s)?**

Below is a list of the four staff, including their roles within the Council, who travelled with Mayor Whanau on the Mayoral Delegation to Asia:

Michael Naylor - Senior Advisor Office of the Mayor  
Anna Calver - Manager Economic Wellbeing & CCO  
Tom Yuan - Manager International Relations  
Karepa Wall – Tātai Heke Māori Chief Māori Officer

The Council's Manager of International Relations speaks Chinese.

#### **Question 2 - What airline are the mayor and staffers flying on?**

The following airlines were used on this trip:

- Air New Zealand
- Qantas
- Xiamen Airlines
- Air China
- Korean Airlines

- Singapore airlines

**Question 3 - What class of flight are they using i.e., economy, premium economy, or business class?**

The Mayor and two council officers travelled by business class to Xiamen with two other officers travelling economy.

The Mayor and staff travelled by economy on all domestic flights within Asia.

The Council's Manager of Economic Wellbeing & CCO travelled economy class from Beijing to Taipei, Taipei to Singapore and then premium economy from Singapore to Auckland. The Council's Tātai Heke Māori Chief Māori Officer upgraded their ticket at their own cost to business class for their flight from Seoul to Auckland.

The Mayor and two remaining Council officers travelled economy class from Seoul to Auckland.

The Council's policy with respect to the class of travel booked for international flights, as outlined in our Council Travel Handbook is as follows:

*1.3.1 Domestic Travel*

*Premium economy (or equivalent) can be booked for any travel over 8 hours flight time if the duration is likely to affect your ability to carry out your business on arrival and a recuperation period of 24 hours is not available. You must fly the most direct route.*

Whilst the Mayor and council officers were booked in business class for their journey to Xiamen, this was approved as informal meetings with the Xiamen Government representatives were scheduled on arrival and the time schedule did not allow less than 24 hours for the Mayor and staff to recuperate from the flight.

Further to this, it was confirmed premium economy was not an option for this flight and the total flight costs remain within the approved budget.

**Question 4 - Is any part of the cost of the airfreight being paid by parties other than WCC, if so, who?**

Yes, the World Smart Sustainable Cities organisation (WeGO), is covering a portion of the Mayors travel to Seoul.

**Question 5 - Is any part of the accommodation while in Asia being paid by another party, if so, who?**

The Council has cost sharing arrangements with the host cities in Asia. Accommodation for the Mayor is met by these host cities and with respect to other Council staff on this trip, some of their accommodation costs are subsidised through these arrangements.

**Question 6 - In respect of the other non WCC staffers on this trip is any part of their travel being paid for directly or indirectly by WCC?**

Wellington City Council did not meet the entire cost of the delegation, with the cost shared with sister cities and the World Cities Summit Mayors Forum, a break down will be provided in a report back to Council in December.

**Right of review**

If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note, we may proactively release our response to your request with your personal information removed.

Thank you again for your request,

Kind regards

Ollie Marchant  
**Official Information**