

18 August 2025



s9(2)(a)

Our ref: OIA 2526-0080

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

## Response to your Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 28 July 2025 to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (the Ministry), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. A copy of your agency's **gift register** covering the period **1 January 2023 to today**, including:
  - Date gift was received and by who
  - Description of the gift
  - Estimated value (if known)
  - Name of the person or organisation who provided the gift
  - Recipient's role or team within the agency
  - Whether the gift was accepted, declined, or otherwise disposed of
2. A copy of your agency's current **policy or guidelines relating to the acceptance, declaration, or handling of gifts**, hospitality, or koha.

On 4 August 2025, we notified you that part two of your request was transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) for response. I understand you have since received a response from DIA on this part of your request.

In response to part one of your request, please see the attached Appendix: *Gift and Hospitality Register* for information on the gifts and hospitality the Ministry received from 1 July 2023 to 28 July 2025. The names of the individual staff members that received a gift, outside of the Chief Executive, have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect their privacy. Details of the gifts or hospitality accepted and declined by the Chief Executive are publicly available on the Ministry's website at [www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz/about-us/disclosure-of-chief-executives-expenses-gifts-and-hospitality](http://www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz/about-us/disclosure-of-chief-executives-expenses-gifts-and-hospitality).

As is required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding information under section 9 of the Act are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my response relating to this request. The relevant details can be found on their website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry may publish responses to requests for official information on our website, shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: [Ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz](mailto:Ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz).

Ngā mihi



Edward Firth

**Director of Ministerial Services**

## Appendix: Gift and Hospitality Register

Date received	Type of declaration	Gift/hospitality offered by	Description	Estimated Value	Position of recipient
18/01/23	Gift	CNSST Foundation	Bottle of wine. Two gift boxes containing: greeting card, plate, chopsticks, and spring festival posters for decoration	\$20 - \$50	Staff
21/01/23	Gift	China Cultural Centre Auckland	Woollen Chinese New Year Rabbit	\$20 - \$50	Office
16/02/23	Gift	Wellington Indian Community	Book	\$50 - \$60	Office
17/02/23	Gift	New Zealand Defence Force	Key ring	<\$20	Staff
18/02/23	Gift	Bay of Plenty Indonesian Community	Artwork	\$20 - \$50	Office
18/02/23	Gift	Swedish Princess	Card holder	<\$20	Staff
18/02/23	Gift	Swedish Princess	Card holder	<\$20	Staff
23/06/23	Hospitality	Chinese Association of Northshore City	A muffin, and two spring rolls	<\$20	Staff
23/06/23	Hospitality	Chinese Association of Northshore City	A muffin, and two spring rolls	<\$20	Staff
12/07/23	Gift	CNSST Foundation	CNSST Commemorative 20th Anniversary Volume. Books: Common knowledge about Chinese history, Chinese geography, and Chinese culture	\$50	Staff
24/07/23	Gift	Asian Family Service	Scarf and a phone holder	\$20	Staff
24/07/23	Gift	Asian Family Service	Scarf and a phone holder	\$20	Staff
17/08/23	Gift	Women on Boards	Gift Bag with NZ-made personal care items e.g. sunscreen, lip balm and insect repellent	\$20 - \$50	Staff
11/11/23	Gift	Bhartiya Samaj Canterbury and Canterbury Indian Women Group	4 x Decorative Diyas (candles)	\$15	Office

Date received	Type of declaration	Gift/hospitality offered by	Description	Estimated Value	Position of recipient
11/11/23	Gift	Bhartiya Samaj Canterbury and Canterbury Indian Women Group	Ethnic flaky sweet with pistachios and almonds	\$15	Staff
14/11/23	Gift	NZ Chinese Association	Book and organisation brochure	\$20 - \$50	Staff
17/11/23	Gift	CNSST Foundation	Gift bag: Soap, USB drive, Baby body wash and shampoo, hand cream and brochure	\$20 - \$50	Staff
17/11/23	Gift	CNSST Foundation	Gift bag: Soap, USB drive, Baby body wash and shampoo, hand cream and brochure	\$20 - \$50	Office
11/01/24	Gift	Korean Women's Association	Two hand towels	<\$20	Staff
24/02/24	Gift	NZ China Friendship Society Tauranga	Chinese art ornament showcasing inner painting	\$20 - \$50	Staff
19/03/24	Hospitality	Cuba Dupa	10 VIP passes (two were used)	\$0	Staff
26/07/24	Gift	Oranga Tamariki Asian Network	Traditional Philippines Garland and a necklace (traditional)	\$20 - \$50	Office
7/09/24	Hospitality	NZ Society of Translators and Interpreters	Conference dinner	\$50 - \$100	Staff
2/10/24	Gift	Humanitix	2 tickets to Show Me Shorts Film Festival	\$35	Staff
28/11/24	Gift	Pear of the Islands Foundation (PIF)	3 copies of The Fountain magazine	\$20 - \$50	Staff
27/03/25	Hospitality	Cuba Dupa	10 VIP passes (seven were used)	\$0	Staff
15/05/25	Gift	Political science department, University of Guelph, Canada	T2 Irish breakfast tea and a strainer	<\$20	Office
7/06/25	Gift	Karuwhā Trust	Bouquet of flowers	\$50	Staff