

19 April 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Stuff
[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-14776

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 26 February 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I request all advice, briefings, reports, notes or meetings, aides memoire and communications to and from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency regarding the change to have its primary name in English. This should include, but not be limited to, communications between Waka Kotahi and ministers and their offices.

In our email of 4 March 2024, we sought clarification on the timeframe for the information you requested and on whether the part of your request for communication was for internal emails at the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) regarding the change to primarily using our name in English.

In your email of 13 March 2024, you confirmed that your request for communications was for internal emails at NZTA. In your email of 14 March 2024, you specified that if the sweep of emails came back with a substantial amount, the request for internal emails should be narrowed to the executive leadership team (ELT).

For the timeframe of 5 December 2023 to 26 February 2024, the preliminary email sweep came back with a result of over 35,900 emails potentially in scope of your request. Upon limiting it to just members of ELT, we came back with an email sweep result of 278 emails potentially in scope of your request. In our email of 21 March 2024, we communicated these sweep results to you and asked if you were comfortable with further narrowing the scope of your request to internal emails to and from our Chief Executive.

In your email of 22 March 2024, you specified that your request for internal emails of the ELT members and broadened the timeframe to 14 October 2023 to 22 March 2024.

As this information is publicly available, I am partly refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act. This is because the information you are requesting has partly already been released as part of earlier requests under the Act.

For more context, communications between our most senior staff members have been collated in responses to earlier requests for all correspondence regarding the NZTA rebrand. Specifically, please see:

- the two 13 February 2024 responses titled “Information about NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi name change” and “Government directive to deprioritise te reo name”
- the 9 February 2024 response titled “Name change correspondence”
- the 23 January 2024 response titled “New Zealand Transport Agency, Waka Kotahi (NZTA) "Our name" presentation”.

In line with NZTA’s practice of releasing responses, these responses have been published online at: www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act/official-information-act-responses/.

The following documents fall within the scope of your request and are enclosed:

- Attachment 1 - Excerpt from Select Committee briefing - 22 February 2024
- Attachment 2 - Excerpt of minutes of 12 December 2023 Board meeting - 22 February 2024
- Attachment 3 - Re_ NZTA Waka Kotahi - Weekly pack
- Attachment 4 - OIA-14776 emails.

Certain information in Attachment 3 and Attachment 4 has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information to protect the privacy of natural persons.

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold this information and refuse part of this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Manager, Media, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Karen Jones
Group General Manager – Engagement and Partnership