

5 September 2018

Jared McCulloch
Newshub
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REF: OIA-4072

Dear Mr McCulloch

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 8 August 2018 to the NZ Transport Agency (the Transport Agency) requesting information about toll roads under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your questions are responded to below.

Please note:

- i. The information is provided in relation to financial years, up until 30 June 2018.
- ii. That information provided in relation to toll road usage and outstanding payments is based on toll classes, being 'light' and 'heavy'. It has not been possible to further break these down into sub-categories such as 'car' or 'motorbike'. This approach aligns with the manner in which tolls tariffs are imposed, and is consistent with other reporting on toll road activity.
- iii. That an administration fee is applied to an invoice when it is issued and is not assigned to a specific toll road as there could be tolls for a number of roads on a single invoice. For this reason, we are unable to provide the number of unpaid invoices by road.

Toll road usage

1. *How many cars, motorbikes and heavy vehicles travel on the Auckland Northern Gateway, Tauranga Eastern Link and Tauranga Takitimu Drive each year since opening?*

The following table provides the number of trips taken on each road from the date of opening, until 30 June 2018:

Toll Road	Financial Year	Total number of light vehicles	Total number of heavy vehicles
Northern Gateway	2008/09	1,793,476	150,610
	2009/10	4,536,212	381,688
	2010/11	4,726,063	390,070
	2011/12	4,802,165	383,617
	2012/13	4,989,792	395,434
	2013/14	5,315,724	424,960
	2014/15	5,614,922	442,556
	2015/16	6,156,480	472,759
	2016/17	6,526,596	514,170
Tauranga Eastern Link	2017/18	6,825,404	563,290
	2015/16	2,273,059	354,044
	2016/17	2,950,382	420,492
Takitimu Drive	2017/18	3,271,597	481,900
	2015/16	2,054,469	456,817
	2016/17	2,789,914	587,769
	2017/18	3,202,873	657,540

2. How many cars, motorbikes and heavy vehicles have travelled on the alternative routes over ten years from 2008? (the roads highlighted in blue in the diagrams below)



The information requested is attached to this letter as **Appendix A**.

Unpaid toll road payments

3. What are the number of payments and monetary figures of outstanding/unpaid toll road charges since opening for each of the following roads: Auckland Northern Gateway, Tauranga Eastern Link and Tauranga Takitimu Drive?

- 3.1. Of those charges, can I have these charges broken down into the categories of cars, motorbikes and heavy vehicles?

The following table provides the outstanding tolls for each road and the number of unpaid invoices.

Admin Fee/Toll Road	Admin Fee	Light	Heavy	Total
Administration Fee	4,993,027.40			4,993,027.40
Northern Gateway		2,338,392.35	89,865.60	2,428,257.95
Tauranga Eastern Link		543,371.13	16,808.53	560,179.66
Takitimu Drive		288,523.60	15,256.25	303,779.85
Total	4,993,027.40	3,170,287.08	121,930.38	8,285,244.86

Number of unpaid invoices: 1,128,855

- 3.2. How many unpaid fines are in relation to rental vehicles?

The following table provides the outstanding tolls incurred by rental vehicles for each road and the number of unpaid invoices.

Admin Fee/Toll Road	Admin Fee	Light	Heavy	Total
Administration Fee	22,624.28	-	-	22,624.28
Northern Gateway	-	10,288.70	1,320.20	11,608.90
Tauranga Eastern Link	-	1,544.00	95.00	1,639.00
Takitimu Drive	-	1,125.00	48.00	1,173.00
Total	22,624.28	12,957.70	1,463.20	37,045.18

Number of unpaid invoices for rental vehicles: 5,124

3.3. *What is the longest outstanding/unpaid fine in relation to these three toll roads?*

The following table provides the longest outstanding tolls for each road.

Toll Road	Invoice amount (\$)	Invoice issue date
Northern Gateway	4.00	12-Feb-09
Tauranga Eastern Link	6.90	7-Sep-15
Takitimu Drive	6.70	20-Aug-15

4. *What are the highest outstanding monetary payment for each, car, motorbike and heavy vehicle owner on each of the three roads? What dates did they happen on?*

The following table provides the highest outstanding payments for each transport type and the dates incurred.

Toll road	Toll class	Amount (\$)	Date of trips
Northern Gateway	Light	4,960.10	March 2011 – October 2016
Northern Gateway	Heavy	3,764.00	July 2011 – October 2017
Tauranga Eastern Link	Light	1,150.00	November 2015 – September 2017
Tauranga Eastern Link	Heavy	573.53	April 2018 – June 2018
Takitimu Drive	Light	2,241.00	November 2015 – June 2018
Takitimu Drive	Heavy	3,988.80	September 2015 – May 2017

5. *What is the highest outstanding payment all three roads were since opening?*

The following table provides the highest outstanding invoice for each road:

Toll Road	Invoice amount (\$)
Northern Gateway	70.70
Tauranga Eastern Link	64.90
Takitimu Drive	62.50

Toll road project debt

6. *What was the final construction cost for each of the following roads: Auckland Northern Gateway, Tauranga Eastern Link and Tauranga Takitimu Drive?*

The following table provides the information requested. Total construction costs were funded from the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) and supplemented by the use of debt.

	Construction Costs	NLTF Funding	Debt Component
Northern Gateway	\$ 375.7 million	\$ 217.7 million	\$ 158.0 million
Tauranga Eastern Link	\$ 456.2 million	\$ 349.2 million	\$ 107.0 million
Takitimu Drive	Please note that the Takitimu Drive toll road was constructed by the Tauranga City Council in 2003 for a cost of \$44.7 million. It was purchased by the Transport Agency in 2015 for \$65 million.		

7. *How much debt is left to pay on each of the three toll roads as of 31 July 2018?*

The following table provides the information requested.

Please note that Takitimu Drive was purchased by the Agency for \$65 million and became a State Highway in 2015.

	Debt Balance as at 31 July 2018
Northern Gateway	\$215.3 million
Tauranga Eastern Link	\$107.0 million
Takitimu Drive	<p>Takitimu Drive was purchased outright from the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) in 2015. The \$65 million purchase price is not, therefore, accounted for as a 'debt'.</p> <p>The NLTF exists to invest in the land transport system to maintain or improve levels of service. The \$65 million payment, being a financial transaction only, does not itself provide transport benefits. Accordingly, the Transport Agency Board determined that \$65 million, plus its opportunity costs, would be recovered from tolls on the road to be invested to generate transport benefits over time.</p> <p>This means that the effective value of the \$65 million is being recovered via tolls to make sure that is available to the fund to provide transport benefits.</p>

8. *How much has already been collected on each of the three toll roads since opening?*

The following table provides the information requested.

	Toll revenues for debt repayment since opening date to 31 July 2018
Northern Gateway	\$ 73.4 million
Tauranga Eastern Link	\$13.3 million
Takitimu Drive*	\$12.8 million

**From the time it was taken over as State Highway by NZTA*

9. *Other than financing the cost of construction, what else has the toll road payments been used on?*

Toll revenue collected is for the repayment of the debt/transaction cost and related interest/opportunity costs, as well as for operating costs of the tolling systems. The ongoing maintenance and operational costs of Northern Gateway and Tauranga Eastern Link are funded from the National Land Transport Fund under the 'State Highways Maintenance' activity class.

10. *What is the estimated date for each project to be fully paid off and the toll removed?*

The information requested is provided in the following table.

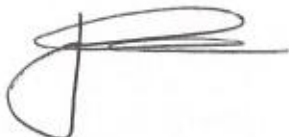
	Estimated year debt fully paid
Northern Gateway	by 2045
Tauranga Eastern Link	by 2044
Takitimu Drive	The transaction cost of \$65 million plus opportunity costs will be recovered by 2041

This response will also be published on the Transport Agency's website, at:

www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/news-and-media/official-information-act/official-information-act-oia-responses/.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager Media by phone on 04 8946285, or by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Coulter', with a large loop at the end.

John Coulter

Senior Manager Operational Policy, Planning and Performance