

19 November 2018

Benedict Collins
Political Reporter
TVNZ
benedict.collins@tvnz.co.nz

REF: OIA-4292

Dear Benedict

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 19 October 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1) *A copy of Meredith Connell's external review which identified the compliance failures.*
- 2) *The total sum spent to date on Meredith Connell's services relating to this external review, and its management of NZTA's regulatory responsibilities and any other related work.*

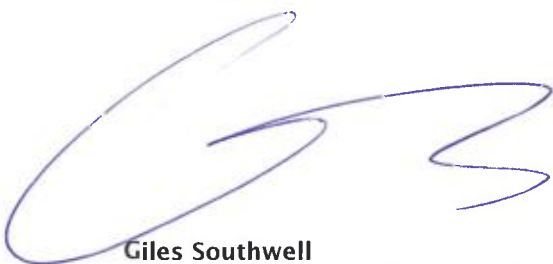
In response to the first part of your request, the initial review undertaken by Meredith Connell was to do a stock take of the regulatory matters requiring attention, for the purposes of providing legal advice to the NZ Transport Agency Board. This review produced a prioritised list of regulatory matters, including information about each of the matters for further legal review. On this basis I am refusing this part of your request under section 9(2)(h) of the Act in order to maintain legal professional privilege. I do not believe that withholding this information is outweighed by other public interest grounds.

In relation to the second part of your request, the costs for Meredith Connell for the period to 19 October 2018 covered by this request are estimated to be approximately \$400,000. As the period requested is mid-month and had yet to be invoiced at the time the request was made, an estimate of work in progress and work that is yet to be invoiced has been used.

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

If you would like to discuss this reply with the NZ Transport Agency, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Manager – Media, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on 04 894 6285.

Yours sincerely



Giles Southwell
Regulatory Non-Compliance Programme Lead