

7 May 2021

Redacted - Privacy

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REF: OIA-7930

Dear Ged

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your request for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), which was transferred to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency from the Ministry of Transport on 8 April 2021:

"I would like to find out how much the government has spent to-date on consultation and administrative work towards Auckland Light Rail since they won election in 2014...

- A total estimated cost incurred by the Government since Labour came into power in 2014 for all activities associated with the Auckland Light Rail Project

- A breakdown of all costs associated with the Auckland Light Rail project since that date. This should include but not be limited to all expenditures on the consultation process, administration of the project, government staff hours, and any payments to consultants or external contractors or experts.

- For each main expenditure categories listed above, can you please tell me the estimated expenditure figure for each and the main jobs the money was spent on."

In relation to your request for government staff hours spent on light rail, the number of employee hours spent on particular projects is not tracked by Waka Kotahi. Our staff often work across multiple projects for varying lengths of time in any given day, week, or month. As such, recording their time spent on each task is not feasible.

I am therefore refusing the above aspect of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by Waka Kotahi and I have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department (for itself and for a departmental agency hosted by it or an interdepartmental executive board serviced by it) or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

Further, you have requested information on *"payments to consultant or external contractors or experts."* This information is included within each of the cost categories detailed in Table 1 below. As the consultancy costs are commercially sensitive, I am withholding the individual costs under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act as releasing the information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

The remainder of the information you have requested is detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Detailed breakdown of Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency light rail costs, October 2017 – 8 April 2021

Item	Amount (\$)
2018 Business Case phase and related costs	6,694,603
General Costs (incl. office space, stationary, equipment, utilities costs)	3,258,889
Legal Costs (incl. RMA/Consenting)	1,087,934
Project Management	2,436,696
Property Fees	154,641
Response Requirements Document (RRD) Process (Waka Kotahi costs for the Parallel Process)	17,040,883
Ministry of Transport Funding	4,183,769
Grand Total	34,857,415

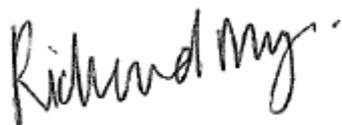
The sum featured in the Ministry of Transport Funding category is included in the figures provided to you by the Ministry of Transport. As such, the two numbers should not be combined.

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.

In accordance with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will be published on our website in due course.

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

Yours sincerely



Richard May
Director – Office of the Chief Executive