

31 October 2013

Terri Russell
Reporter
Southland Times
terri.russell@fairfaxmedia.co.nz

Level 2, AA Centre
450 Moray Place
PO Box 5245
Moray Place
Dunedin 9058
New Zealand
T 64 3 951 3009
F 64 3 951 3013
www.nzta.govt.nz

Dear Terri

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 26 September 2013 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 about the recent closures of the Milford Road due to storm and avalanches. The NZ Transport Agency wrote to you on 18 October 2013 to extend the time available to respond to your request. Your questions and my responses follow.

1) *All video footage of the avalanches on Milford Rd on Tuesday September 10 and Wednesday September 11.*

The NZ Transport Agency would like to invite you into the Dunedin regional office to view this video footage or alternatively arrange to show the footage at your office in Invercargill. This ensures the footage is viewed in the correct context and with detailed facts supporting the video. This process is allowed for under sections 16(1)(c), 16(1)(f) and 16(2)(c) of the Official Information Act 1982. We believe that to provide the videos to you without oral context, or to allow you to take copies of the videos away, would prejudice the interests protected by section 9(2)(c) of the Official Information Act (being that it is necessary to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the safety of members of the public). Please contact Bob Nettleton to arrange this. His contact details are at the end of this letter.

2) *How many times has the Milford Rd closed in the past 12 months?*

Please see the answer to question 3 below.

3) *How many times has the Milford Rd closed each year for the past 5 years?*

Please see Appendix 1 attached. This shows the complete information downloaded from our notification system including the hours actually closed. The period covered is from October 2008.

The Transport Agency and our contractor endeavour to keep access to Milford open as much as possible and closures only occur when there is an issue with safety. The darkness will often hide risks so we exclude the public at night from the avalanche area. These closures are well advertised and tourists can make informed choices regarding which side of the closure they stay. Night time closures allow most or all tours to operate. It should also be noted that when closed for storms the sea tours cannot operate due to rough seas.

4) *Why has the Milford Rd closed in the past 12 months?*

Apart from avalanche and snow conditions on the road in the last few weeks, the predominant closures have been due to the recent Moirés Mate rock fall risk including the 2,000 tonne rock that was perched over the Western portal of the Homer Tunnel. Closures occurred initially due to inability to monitor it (due to the weather conditions) and more recently during the process of destroying it.

5) *What is the current status of the Milford Rd?*

Up to date information on the Milford Road is publicly available at www.highwayinfo.govt.nz.

6) *How much will it cost to repair the damage to Milford Rd from the September 10/11 avalanches and who will pay?*

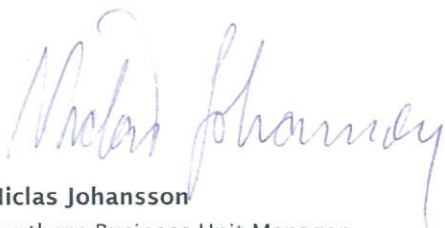
The Transport Agency funds the cost of the avalanche programme including the removal of snow. The event of 10 to 12 September resulted from 300mm of rain in conjunction with the avalanches. This caused damage to the road and the road surface, drainage and bridges. This rain affected damage is the subject of a claim for emergency works. The cost will be in the order of \$250k. A large portion of this is due to a bridge being damaged and the repairs for this are only now being finalised.

7) *When is the Milford Rd expected to be repaired back to prior September 10 standards?*

The area has been restored as much as weather has allowed. The damaged bridge is currently one lane. Once the weather improves in the area and the avalanche risk is no longer an issue the sites requiring resurfacing will be prepared and sealed. It is likely repairs will not be complete until December 2013 or January 2014.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the NZTA, please contact Bob Nettleton, by email to bob.nettleton@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (03) 951 3005.

Yours sincerely



Niclas Johansson
Southern Business Unit Manager
For Chief Executive

Appendix 1

Event ID	Closure Start		Closure End Date		Closure Duration	Incident	Timing
	Date	Time	Date	Time			
24631	17-Jul-09	09:27	17-Jul-09	10:39	1hr:12min	Ice	Daytime
25164	29-Jul-09	07:20	01-Aug-09	15:20	56hr.0min	Avalanche	Daytime
25266	01-Aug-09	15:19	10-Aug-09	07:19	232hr.00min	Avalanche	Daytime
25599	10-Aug-09	15:02	31-Aug-09	07:09	496hr.07min	Avalanche	Daytime
26422	01-Sep-09	07:07	06-Sep-09	11:47	124hr.40min	Avalanche	Daytime
27071	22-Sep-09	07:19	23-Sep-09	10:32	27hr.13min	Tunnel	Daytime
33645	22-Mar-10	08:11	22-Mar-10	10:42	2 hr.31min	Trees	Daytime
33648	22-Mar-10	10:00	25-Mar-10	09:00	71h00min	Washout	Daytime
34390	13-Apr-10	22:00	13-Apr-10	23:59	1hr.59min	Rockfall	Overnight
34789	25-Apr-10	10:35	27-Apr-10	11:00	48hr.25min	Flooding	daytime
40207	02-Sep-10	06:30	02-Sep-10	10:05	3hr.35min	Snow	Daytime
40207	02-Sep-10	17:30	03-Sep-10	09:45	16hr.25min	snow	Overnight
40358	05-Sep-10	10:00	07-Sep-10	10:00	48hr.0mins	slip	Daytime
40358	15-Sep-10	00:00	19-Sep-10	12:38	36hr.38min	snow	Daytime
41255	19-Sep-10	12:30	19-Sep-10	14:00	1hr.30min	snow	Daytime
41255	19-Sep-10	17:00	20-Sep-10	13:40	20hr.40min	snow	Overnight
41255	20-Sep-10	17:00	21-Sep-10	10:00	17hr.00min	snow	Overnight
41255	22-Sep-10	16:00	25-Sep-10	10:00	66hr.00min	Avalanche	Daytime
41255	25-Sep-10	16:00	26-Sep-10	10:30	18hr.30min	Avalanche	Overnight
41255	26-Sep-10	17:00	27-Sep-10	09:00	16hr.00min	snow	Overnight
41764	28-Sep-10	17:00	29-Sep-10	09:30	16hr.30min	Snow	Overnight
44616	21-Dec-10	08:00	21-Dec-10	12:00	4hr.0min	Slip	Daytime
44616	21-Dec-10	17:00	22-Dec-10	09:00	16hr.0min	Slip	Overnight
49525	16-May-11	07:00	16-May-11	10:00	3hr.00min	Snow	Daytime
51203	06-Jul-11	17:00	07-Jul-11	10:00	17hr.00min	Snow	Overnight
51203	08-Jul-11	09:30	17-Jul-11	12:20	218hr.50min	Snow	Daytime
52110	24-Jul-11	16:30	25-Jul-11	12:20	19hr.50min	Snow	Overnight
52191	26-Jul-11	14:30	27-Jul-11	11:30	21hr.00min	Snow	Daytime
52300	29-Jul-11	08:30	30-Jul-11	12:40	28hr.10min	Avalanche	Daytime
52517	15-Aug-11	10:00	16-Aug-11	13:50	27hr.50min	Snow	Daytime
53675	10-Sep-11	09:00	11-Sep-11	08:00	23hr.00min	Avalanche	Daytime
53998	21-Sep-11	17:00	21-Sep-11	18:56	1hr.56min	Avalanche	Daytime
62228	05-Jun-12	18:30	06-Jun-12	08:30	14hr.0min	Snow	Overnight
62338	09-Jun-12	06:30	09-Jun-12	08:50	2hr.20min	snow	Daytime
63002	25-Jun-12	17:00	28-Jun-12	12:02	67hr.02min	Avalanche	Daytime
65878	05-Sep-12	17:00	07-Sep-12	11:00	42hr.00min	Avalanche	Daytime
66010	08-Sep-12	17:00	13-Sep-12	11:05	114hr.05min	Avalanche	Daytime
66296	14-Sep-12	12:00	16-Sep-12	12:00	48hr.00min	snow	Daytime
67260	12-Oct-12	16:00	19-Oct-12	10:00	162hr.00min	Slip	Daytime
67611	19-Oct-12	17:00	21-Oct-12	08:27	39hr.27min	slip	Daytime
67767	24-Oct-12	16:30	25-Oct-12	08:13	15hr.43min	slip	Overnight
67834	26-Oct-12	17:00	01-Nov-12	06:28	133hr.28min	slip	Overnight
68041	01-Nov-12	17:00	02-Nov-12	07:30	14hr.30min	slip	Overnight
68053	02-Nov-12	15:00	03-Nov-12	07:30	16hr.30min	Rockfall	Overnight
68319	10-Nov-12	16:08	10-Nov-12	07:44	15hr.37min	slip	Overnight
70618	13-Jan-13	16:37	13-Jan-13	17:55	1hr.20min	Trees	Daytime
70945	23-Jan-13	20:22	23-Jan-13	07:35	11hr.13min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	24-Jan-13	18:58	25-Jan-13	07:32	12hr.34min	Rockfall	Overnight

Event ID	Closure Start		Closure End Date		Closure	Incident	Timing
70945	25-Jan-13	18:45	26-Jan-13	07:37	12hr.52min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	26-Jan-13	18:57	27-Jan-13	07:24	12hr.27min.	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	27-Jan-13	19:13	28-Jan-13	07:34	12hr.21min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	28-Jan-13	18:58	29-Jan-13	07:22	12hr.24min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	29-Jan-13	18:59	30-Jan-13	07:30	12hr.31min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	30-Jan-13	19:01	31-Jan-13	07:14	12hr.13min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	31-Jan-13	18:05	01-Feb-13	07:34	13hr.29min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	01-Feb-13	18:57	02-Feb-13	07:16	12hr.19min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	02-Feb-13	19:07	03-Feb-13	07:15	12hr.08min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	03-Feb-13	19:04	04-Feb-13	07:34	12hr.30min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	05-Feb-13	19:30	06-Feb-13	07:26	13hr.56min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	06-Feb-13	19:00	07-Feb-13	07:43	12hr.43min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	07-Feb-13	17:54	08-Feb-13	07:29	13hr.39min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	08-Feb-13	19:07	09-Feb-13	07:25	12hr.18min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	09-Feb-13	19:28	10-Feb-13	07:26	11hr.58min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	10-Feb-13	19:30	11-Feb-13	07:31	12hr.01min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	11-Feb-13	19:26	12-Feb-13	07:30	12hr.04min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	12-Feb-13	19:27	13-Feb-13	07:38	12hr.11min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	13-Feb-13	19:37	14-Feb-13	07:46	12hr.09min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	14-Feb-13	18:00	15-Feb-13	07:35	13hr.35min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	16-Feb-13	19:28	17-Feb-13	07:33	12hr.05min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	17-Feb-13	19:28	18-Feb-13	07:34	12hr.05min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	18-Feb-13	19:33	19-Feb-13	07:28	11hr.55min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	19-Feb-13	19:35	20-Feb-13	07:52	12hr.17min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	20-Feb-13	19:25	21-Feb-13	07:29	12hr.04min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	22-Feb-13	19:29	23-Feb-13	07:41	12hr.12min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	23-Feb-13	19:44	24-Feb-13	07:40	11hr.56min	Rockfall	Overnight
70945	24-Feb-13	19:32	25-Feb-13	07:58	12hr.26min	Rockfall	Overnight
72697	15-Mar-13	19:26	16-Mar-13	07:32	12hr.06min	Rockfall	Overnight
72991	24-Mar-13	06:18	25-Mar-13	07:51	25hr.33min	tunnel	Daytime
74465	03-May-13	18:25	04-May-13	07:25	13hr.00min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	04-May-13	17:42	05-May-13	07:48	14hr.06min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	05-May-13	17:47	06-May-13	07:31	13hr.44min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	06-May-13	17:34	07-May-13	07:33	13hr.59min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	07-May-13	17:41	08-May-13	07:41	14hr.00min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	08-May-13	17:43	09-May-13	07:35	13hr.52min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	09-May-13	17:47	10-May-13	08:46	14hr.59min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	10-May-13	17:43	11-May-13	09:41	15hr.58min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	11-May-13	17:30	12-May-13	07:28	13hr.58min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	12-May-13	17:30	13-May-13	07:26	13hr.56min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	13-May-13	17:33	14-May-13	07:45	14hr.25min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	14-May-13	17:30	15-May-13	07:50	14hr.20min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	15-May-13	17:30	16-May-13	07:46	14hr.16min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	16-May-13	17:41	17-May-13	07:37	13hr.56min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	17-May-13	17:30	18-May-13	07:33	14hr.03min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	18-May-13	17:30	19-May-13	07:38	14hr.08min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	19-May-13	17:30	20-May-13	07:35	14hr.05min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	20-May-13	17:48	21-May-13	07:33	13hr.45min	Rockfall	Overnight
74465	21-May-13	17:37	22-May-13	07:55	14hr.18min	Rockfall	Overnight
75216	22-May-13	17:30	23-May-13	07:30	14hr.00min	Rockfall	Overnight

Event ID	Closure Start		Closure End Date		Closure	Incident	Timing
75216	23-May-13	08:41	05-Jun-13	07:00	310hr.19min	Rockfall	Daytime
75416	26-May-13	12:13	28-May-13	12:11	47hr.58min	snow	Daytime
75733	01-Jun-13	18:00	03-Jun-13	07:43	39hr.43min	Storm Damage	Daytime
75906	05-Jun-13	08:50	21-Jun-13	00:00	399hr.10min	Rockfall	Daytime
76888	21-Jun-13	08:50	21-Jun-13	09:02	0hr.12min	Rockfall	Daytime
76891	21-Jun-13	09:08	23-Jun-13	12:22	51hr.14min	Rockfall	Daytime
77059	23-Jun-13	17:00	24-Jun-13	07:53	14hr.53min	Tunnel	Overnight
77059	24-Jun-13	17:12	25-Jun-13	06:58	13hr.46min	Tunnel	Overnight
77059	26-Jun-13	17:03	27-Jun-13	07:54	14hr.51min	Tunnel	Overnight
77059	27-Jun-13	17:00	28-Jun-13	07:31	14hr.31min	Tunnel	Overnight
77059	28-Jun-13	17:00	29-Jun-13	07:12	14hr.12min	Tunnel	Overnight
77059	29-Jun-13	17:00	30-Jun-13	07:01	14hr.01min	Tunnel	Overnight
77059	30-Jun-13	17:09	01-Jul-13	07:05	13hr.56min	Tunnel	Overnight
77059	01-Jul-13	17:00	02-Jul-13	08:50	15hr.50min	Tunnel	Overnight
77059	02-Jul-13	17:00	03-Jul-13	12:16	19hr.16min	Rockfall	Daytime
77059	03-Jul-13	17:00	04-Jul-13	07:15	14hr.15min	Tunnel	Overnight
77059	04-Jul-13	16:55	05-Jul-13	11:53	18hr.38min	Rockfall	Daytime
77059	05-Jul-13	17:20	06-Jul-13	07:32	14hr.12min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	06-Jul-13	17:00	08-Jul-13	11:22	18hr.22m in	Rockfall	Daytime
77059	08-Jul-13	17:31	09-Jul-13	12:01	18hr.30min	Rockfall	Daytime
77059	09-Jul-13	17:00	10-Jul-13	07:38	17hr.38min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	10-Jul-13	17:00	11-Jul-13	07:30	14hr.30min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	11-Jul-13	17:32	12-Jul-13	07:13	13hr.41min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	12-Jul-13	16:58	13-Jul-13	06:57	13hr.59min.	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	13-Jul-13	16:58	14-Jul-13	08:53	15hr.55min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	14-Jul-13	11:20	14-Jul-13	12:33	1hr.13min	snow	Daytime
77059	14-Jul-13	17:00	15-Jul-13	07:30	14hr.30min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	15-Jul-13	17:01	16-Jul-13	07:30	14hr.29min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	16-Jul-13	17:03	17-Jul-13	07:00	13hr.57min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	17-Jul-13	17:01	18-Jul-13	07:35	14hr.34min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	18-Jul-13	16:59	19-Jul-13	07:13	14hr.14min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	19-Jul-13	17:00	20-Jul-13	08:34	15hr.34min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	20-Jul-13	17:00	21-Jul-13	07:02	14hr.02min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	21-Jul-13	17:00	22-Jul-13	07:16	14hr.16min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	22-Jul-13	17:04	23-Jul-13	07:28	14hr.24min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	23-Jul-13	16:59	24-Jul-13	07:03	14hr04min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	24-Jul-13	17:03	25-Jul-13	07:30	14hr.27min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	25-Jul-13	17:00	26-Jul-13	07:38	14hr.38min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	26-Jul-13	17:00	27-Jul-13	07:36	14hr.36min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	27-Jul-13	17:30	28-Jul-13	07:29	13hr.59min.	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	28-Jul-13	17:06	29-Jul-13	07:30	14hr.24min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	29-Jul-13	17:00	30-Jul-13	07:30	14hr.30min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	30-Jul-13	17:11	31-Jul-13	07:41	14hr.30min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	31-Jul-13	17:03	01-Aug-13	07:36	14hr.33min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	01-Aug-13	17:00	02-Aug-13	07:46	14hr.46min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	02-Aug-13	17:10	03-Aug-13	07:43	14hr.33min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	03-Aug-13	17:03	04-Aug-13	07:42	14hr.39min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	04-Aug-13	17:06	05-Aug-13	07:37	14hr.31min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	05-Aug-13	17:00	06-Aug-13	07:34	14hr.34min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	06-Aug-13	17:00	07-Aug-13	07:34	14hr.34min	Rockfall	Overnight

Event ID	Closure Start		Closure End Date		Closure	Incident	Timing
77059	07-Aug-13	17:07	08-Aug-13	07:30	14hr.23min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	08-Aug-13	17:00	09-Aug-13	07:27	14hr.27min	Rockfall	Overnight
77059	09-Aug-13	17:39	10-Aug-13	06:56	13hr.17min	Rockfall	Overnight
79173	14-Aug-13	17:18	15-Aug-13	08:26	15hr.08min	Rockfall	Overnight
79009	15-Aug-13	17:38	16-Aug-13	02:00	8hr.22min	Rockfall	Overnight
79275	16-Aug-13	07:36	16-Aug-13	08:47	1hr.11min	Rockfall	Overnight
79275	16-Aug-13	17:35	17-Aug-13	07:30	13hr.55min	Rockfall	Overnight
79275	17-Aug-13	17:35	18-Aug-13	07:30	13hr.55min	Rockfall	Overnight
79275	18-Aug-13	17:25	19-Aug-13	07:27	14hr.02min	Rockfall	Overnight
79275	19-Aug-13	17:29	20-Aug-13	07:20	13hr.51min	Rockfall	Overnight
79275	20-Aug-13	17:39	21-Aug-13	07:30	13hr:51min	Rockfall	Overnight
79275	21-Aug-13	17:30	22-Aug-13	07:36	14hr.06min	Rockfall	Overnight
79275	22-Aug-13	17:26	23-Aug-13	07:30	14hr.04min	Rockfall	Overnight
79861	31-Aug-13	06:00	31-Aug-13	09:57	3hr.57min	Avalanche	Daytime
80602	15-Sep-13	17:36	15-Sep-13	07:41	14hr.5min	Storm Damage	Overnight
80602	16-Sep-13	17:30	17-Sep-13	07:30	14hr	Storm Damage	Overnight
80602	17-Sep-13	17:35	18-Sep-13	07:19	13hr.44min	Storm Damage	Overnight
80602	18-Sep-13	17:30	19-Sep-13	07:30	14hr.0min	Storm Damage	Overnight
80795	20-Sep-13	17:25	21-Sep-13	08:24	15hr.59min	Trees	Overnight
81885	13-Oct-13	17:30	14-Oct-13	12:50	19hr.20min	Storm Damage	Daytime

RELEASED UNDER
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT