



Ministerial Services Memo

Official Information Act Request

Reference Number	Requester	Date Received	Dispatch Date
OIA-3396	John-Michael Swannix	24 November 2017	7 February 2018

Subject/Background

On 24 November 2017, MoT transferred two of three questions from Mr Swannix to NZTA. From early consultation, it was apparent that it would be difficult to determine exact costs of median barriers since their first installation. On 6 December 2017, a refinement was suggested to provide a more specific timeframe to Mr Swannix's request. At this time, it was considered that with a refinement and a 20 day extension, the request could be responded to. This included locating potentially in-scope information and contacting individual regional engineers for each project in order to determine costs. It was found that for almost all projects, the cost of retrofitted median barriers was not calculated separately, and those that had been calculated were only estimations from memory. It would also involve going through archives and contract documents, which may not hold this information, despite impacting on the day-to-day activities of NZTA.

As such, it is now determined that the effort required to collate the information would interfere with the day-to-day operations of the NZTA. This request is therefore being refused under section 18(f) of the Act, due to substantial collation.

It is important to note that the Legal team s9(2)(h) s9(2)(h) However, this advice was given before the extent of the collation required, and inaccuracy and non-existence of the data was truly understood.

Expected Outcomes

John-Michael Swannix is employed by MediaWorks, so it is likely a media article was intended to be written. However, given the refusal of most of the information, the risk is low.

Mr Swannix may lodge further OIA requests asking for specific project costs. At this time, all estimated costs are available on the NZTA website (link provided in response). An Ombudsman complaint may arise given the NZTA extended the response timeframe and then refused the request.

Business Unit Drafter	MS Advisor
Fergus Tate	Lachlan Brown

Additional Consultation (if needed)

	Name, Position	Date of consultation
Media	Andrew Knackstedt (FYI)	1/2/18
Communications		
Legal	Alan Malthus	1/2/18

	Date IN	Date OUT
Reviewed by CE's Office	1/2/18	5/2/18
<i>If required:</i> Seen by MO/AMO	5/2/18	5/2/18
Signed by T3	7/2/18	7/2/18

DISPATCHED

Date
7/2/18