

3 April 2018

Duncan Grieve
The Spinoff
duncan@thespinoff.co.nz

REF: OIA-3618

Dear Duncan

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 26 February 2018 to the Ministry of Social Development requesting information about the annual subsidy paid to fund SuperGold card trips to Waiheke Island under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 3 March 2018, the following part of your request was transferred to the NZ Transport Agency for a response:

I would like to get the annual subsidy paid to fund super gold card trips to Waiheke, year by year, since its inception.

The table below lists the information held by the NZ Transport Agency regarding the SuperGold card scheme subsidy paid for travel on ferry services to and from Waiheke Island. The table lists the amount of funding allocated and the actual amount paid in SuperGold card subsidy for trips taken by SuperGold cardholders on the Waiheke Island ferry services, from 2008 to 2018.

The available subsidy funding for the Fullers-operated Waiheke Island ferry service was capped in November 2010 and adjusted annually in line with the consumer price index. The Explorer ferry service received SuperGold card subsidy payment for 6 months during the 2015/16 financial year. From 1 July 2016 the funding model for the SuperGold card Scheme changed from a demand-driven to a bulk funding model, including a continued annual subsidy funding cap for the Waiheke Island ferry services (both Sealink and Fullers services), which was re-set at \$1,886,000 plus an annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment.

Due to the way information was reported at that time the NZ Transport Agency has information about the subsidy cap but not information about the actual SuperGold card subsidy paid to Fullers and Sealink for SuperGold card holders' travel on Waiheke Island ferry services between July 2010 and June 2014. This information may be available from Auckland Transport.

Table: SuperGold card subsidy allocation and actual payments for Waiheke Island Ferry trips by SuperGold card holders 2008/09 – 2017/18

	Subsidy cap	Actual Subsidy paid for the year	Notes
2008/09	-	\$1,430,378	No subsidy cap in place – includes actual subsidy paid for the Fullers and Sealink Waiheke ferry services.
2009/10	-	\$1,871,684	No subsidy cap in place – includes actual subsidy paid for the Fullers and Sealink Waiheke ferry services.
2010/11	\$1,500,000	-	Subsidy cap introduced November 2010 on the Fullers Waiheke Island ferry service. The Sealink ferry service was excluded from this cap.
2011/12	\$1,540,500	-	The NZ Transport Agency does not hold information on the actual subsidy paid to operators of Waiheke Island ferry services for the 2010/11–2013/14 financial years
2012/13	\$1,559,000	-	
2013/14	\$1,601,000	-	
2014/15	\$1,617,000	\$1,915,337	The subsidy cap applied only to Fullers services. The actual subsidy paid includes the Fullers and Sealink Waiheke Island ferry services.
2015/16	\$1,622,400	\$1,505,559	The subsidy cap and actual subsidy paid includes the Fullers, Sealink and Explorer Waiheke Island ferry services.
2016/17	\$1,889,772	\$1,541,721	The subsidy cap and actual subsidy paid includes the Fullers and Sealink Waiheke Island ferry services.
2017/18	\$1,925,678	-	The subsidy cap includes the Fullers and Sealink Waiheke Island ferry services. The financial year ends 30 June 2018

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision on 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 Andy Knackstedt , Senior Manager Media by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on 04 894 6285.

Yours sincerely



Barbara Tebbs

Senior Manager, Regulatory & Transport Policy