

28 August 2019

Phil Pennington  
Reporter  
Radio New Zealand  
[phil.pennington@rnz.co.nz](mailto:phil.pennington@rnz.co.nz)

REF: OIA-5469

Dear Phil

**Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your emails of 19 July 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

On 12 August 2019 the NZ Transport Agency extended the 20 working days available to respond to your request, as allowed for under section 15A of the Act.

Your specific questions and my responses are outlined below.

**1. *Has NZTA ever made a direct appointment of Google as a data provider?***

Yes. The appointment complied with the Transport Agency's procurement processes.

**2. *Was a provision of "traffic live data" tender ever run by TA? If so pls provide details including the value of the tender. If not, why not as it would be worth >\$100k?***

No. This data is provided under the Google contract.

**3. *Software licencing doubled from 2013 to 2018 and went up by \$3m b/w 2017 and 2018. Pls detail exactly what led to this increase.***

As Andrew Knackstedt advised you in his email of 26 of July 2019, the increase in cost from 2016/17 to 2017/18 in the Transport Agency's licensing costs was due to a range of factors, which are also outlined in the Transport Agency's Annual Review for 2017/18. These factors include:

- projects such as Mobility OS
- the purchase of specialised licenses such as Google cloud licences and licenses for geospatial software (such as ArcGis and FME software)
- increased investment in a cyber security programme which increased licence requirements
- further investment in analytics systems as Crash Hub, Insight Hub and specialist analytics tools.

**4. Pls detail the cost or fees to TA of data or data services if this is in addition to the software licensing fees; year by year from 2013 till the latest figures you have.**

This information is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) – “to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information”.
- Section 9(2)(ba)(i) – “to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied”.

**5. There has been some concern post-March 15 about govt agency contracts with Google. Pls detail for both software licensing and data services, separately, the total fees or charges or sums paid by TA to Google year by year from 2013 till the latest you have.**

The Transport Agency has three contracts with Google:

- a) Google data contract (December 2016)
- b) G–Suite (June 2017)
- c) Google Cloud Platform (November 2017).

The costs for these contracts are withheld under sections 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act as outlined above.

**6. Pls detail a total of costs to TA related to Traffic Watcher since its inception till now.**

The proof of concept and related R & D for Traffic Watcher took place during February 2018 and was part of a suite of proof of concepts undertaken at that time and ran as a trial until December 2018. Therefore, we are unable to provide a breakdown of individual costs. Development of the product started in January 2019.

**7. Pls provide the year-by-year costs since 2013 to TA of Traffic Watcher including separately:**

- **Development costs**

As outlined above, the product development began in January 2019. There are three resources working on the product. The total cost from January 2019 up to June 2019 is approximately \$375,000.

- **Operating costs**

The operating costs for the Google data contract and Google Cloud Platform are withheld under sections 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act as outlined above.

- **Any software licensing costs**

Nil.

- **Any data or data services costs**

The cost of the Google data contract relates to a number of products that access and use the data. This cost is not broken down and cannot be attributed to the individual products. The cost for the Google data contract is withheld under sections 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act, as outlined previously.

**6. Re Traffic Watcher, since its inception till now, pls provide a month-by-month breakdown of any fees or charges or sums paid to Google related to TW.**

As outlined above, the cost of the Google data contract relates to a number of products that access and use the data. This cost is not broken down and cannot be attributed to the individual products. Traffic Watcher also utilises the Google Cloud Platform.

The cost for the Google data contract and Google Cloud Platform are withheld under sections 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act, as outlined previously.

**7. Pls provide a month-by-month breakdown of the numbers of users of TW since its inception till now.**

The number of users month by month is not captured. However, the table below shows how many times the site was accessed, per month from March 2019 to July 2019. The same user may have accessed the site multiple times.

Month	Number of times site was accessed
March 2019	615
April 2019	1047
May 2019	2892
June 2019	470
July 2019	591

**8. Pls advise what the status of TW is. It was rolled out as a free public tool I understand; Is it behind a firewall or paywall of some kind? It was for the public – is it still publicly accessible in any way?**

Traffic Watcher is now operational. It is not a public tool. It is accessed by the Transport Operations Centres, road maintenance contractors, Police and Transport Agency staff.

**9. Pls advise – has there been any communications with Google about storage of data, where TA may have been in breach or is in breach? YES/NO**

Yes.

**10. Detail how Traffic Watcher was procured. Was it developed in-house? Was it contracted out? Was it direct appointment or tendered? To whom?**

Traffic Watcher was developed in-house, at the Transport Agency.

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

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

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager Media, by email to [andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz) or by phone on 04 894 6285.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CR', written in a cursive style.

**Charles Ronaldson**  
General Manager Operations