

24 October 2019

Phil Pennington
Journalist
Radio NZ
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Ref: OIA-5670

Dear Phil

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 22 August 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 18 September 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:

[...] re NIEMS (National Incident Event Management System) and how spending on this is recorded in the 2016-17 Annual Review:

- 1. On p27 NIEMS is budgeted at \$2.24m (from Aug 2016-Sept 2017)***
- 2. On p210 the Castle Rock contract signed in Sept 2016 is for \$4.5m (US firm Castle Rock was chosen after an RFP).***

Why do these two amounts differ? i.e why is the NIEMS stated budget only half of the value of the contract to "Provision of National Incident & Event Management System (NIEMS)"?

Details of the NIEMS project, which are outlined in the Transport Agency's response to question 25 of the Annual Review 2016/17 (page 27) are correct – the budgeted cost of NIEMS was \$2.24 million.

However, the Castle Rock contract details in Appendix C of the Annual Review 2016/17 (page 210) was incorrectly entered as \$4.5 million. The contract the Transport Agency had with Castle Rock was for \$1.5 million.

To the best of our knowledge, \$2.24 million was budgeted for NIEMS to cover the Castle Rock contract of \$1.5 million as well as other costs associated with NIEMS, such as the Transport Agency's project team costs.

In addition, it would also be nice to know today: the 2016-17 AR provides the costs of accommodation for 5 NZTA staff who checked out Castle Rock in the US – this is for \$928 each. None of the five entries contain an amount for travel.

1. Why is that?

2. How much did the 5 spend on travel?

When collating information for the 2016/17 Annual Review response to Q92, the Transport Agency provided information held for all flights purchased in the 2016/17 financial year. However, in the process, the international travel costs for these NIEMS-related flights were inadvertently omitted because the flights were booked and paid for in the previous financial year (the end of 2015/16).

The total cost for the five people for the NIEMS-related trip is \$48,300. This comprises \$43,239 for travel, \$4,640 in accommodation costs and \$419 in other travel-related costs.

The Transport Agency is reviewing its responses to the Select Committee questions about travel and will provide updated information to the Select Committee at the Annual Review hearing in December 2019.

3. What was the total cost of pre-contract signing re Castle Rock's RFP?

To the best of our knowledge, the cost of pre-contract signing comprised of the travel costs of the five Transport Agency staff who travelled to Castle Rock as outlined above.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my response to this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located online at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

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

Yours sincerely



Derek Lyons
Chief Information Officer