

19 March 2020

Jordan Bond  
Reporter  
Radio New Zealand  
Jordan.Bond@rnz.co.nz

REF: OIA-6436

Dear Jordan

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

Thank you for your email of 21 February 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *All briefings to the Minister of Transport or his office about the Farebox Recovery Ratio dated from the start of 2019 until now.*
- *Any report produced about the impacts of the Fare Recovery Ratio on patronage since the beginning of 2018.*

The four documents that fall within the scope of the first part of your request are listed in the attached Document Schedule. The Transport Agency understands these documents will be released to you on or before 20 March 2020 as part of the Official Information Act request you made to the Minister of Transport, Hon Phil Twyford on 21 February 2020.

A further document containing information about the Farebox Recovery Ratio (FRR) has been located. However, as the majority of information falls outside the scope of your request, only the relevant excerpt has been provided for:

**BRI-1721: Final Mode Shift Plans -28 June 2019**

***Review and update fare policy guidance***

*We will ensure our fare policy guidance is fit for purpose, including an update to the national farebox recovery policy and our 'fare policy decision-making guide'. We will also partner in the development of Regional Public Transport Plans to ensure regional fare policies contribute to achieving mode shift.*

There have been no reports produced regarding the impacts of the farebox recovery ratio on patronage. I am therefore refusing the second part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act because the information requested does not exist.

While not within the scope of your request, you may be interested to know that there was an update on public transport fare policy changes, included in Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's National

Land Transport Programme (NLTP) Bulletin dated 17 October 2019, which is available online at: <https://nzta-nltp.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/t/AD461B9EE9A07A6C2540EF23F30FEDED>. The content of the relevant article has been set out below:

***Public transport fare policy changes***

*We're undertaking a review of our public transport fare policy, recognising the need to better support mode shift, improve access and provide councils with greater flexibility to address public transport affordability.*

*This will include elements of the current national farebox recovery policy, as well as broader guidelines recognising the wider impacts of fare policy on people and cities.*

*The farebox recovery policy introduced in 2010 included a national farebox recovery target of not less than 50%. This target has not applied since the launch of the 2018-21 NLTP. While at this stage we aren't proposing to introduce a new target, the underlying principles of the current policy still apply when developing regional fare policies:*

- fare policies should be consistent with the wider objectives in Regional Public Transport Plans and contribute to the government's transport priorities;*
- fares play an important role in helping cover the cost of public transport within available budgets; and*
- farebox recovery is one component to consider when planning fare revenue and reviewing fare levels, but should not be the only measure considered.*

*It's important councils still manage their fare revenue and public transport budgets within current funding allocations, as the same funding constraints within the wider NLTP apply for public transport.*

*We're investing a record \$3.9 billion in public transport during this NLTP and it's unlikely there will be additional funding for fare reductions before the next NLTP in June 2021. Any funding requests need to follow the standard cost scope adjustment process.*

*We'll advise further details on the scope and engagement of the public transport fare policy review once this is finalised.*

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse part of your 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 Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, please contact Andrew 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



**Barbara Tebbs**

Senior Manager, Transport System Policy

**OIA-6436 Document Schedule**

Ref	Document	Date	Description
1.	MIN-2977	25 January 2019	Information provided to the Minister's office on the farebox recovery rate  <b>CAVEAT: Please note, regarding Table 1 'Modelling of the financial impact of reducing the FBR target' (on page 3 of this document), that the information in this table was intended as an illustrative example only: it was NOT (and was not intended as) an accurate forecast of the financial impact of reducing the farebox recovery target. Additionally, the information available at the time this illustrative example was collated is now outdated – and has been superseded. The information in the table below can therefore not be relied on and is not indicative of the financial impact of reducing farebox recovery targets.</b>
2.	BRI-1700	6 June 2019	Briefing to the Minister on the national farebox recovery policy review
3.	MIN-3132	12 June 2019	Briefing to the Minister's office on opportunities to make an announcement regarding changes to the national farebox recovery policy
4.	MIN/O-0005	27 August 2019	Briefing to the Minister's office following up MIN-3132