

15 June 2020

Georgina Campbell
Reporter
NZ Herald
georgina.campbell@nzme.co.nz

REF: OIA-6629

Dear Georgina

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 3 May 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

All correspondence, documents, and draft documents, between 1 February 2020 to date, relating to Transmission Gully workers returning to their homes overseas due to Covid-19.

All information falling within scope of your request can be located in Attachment 1.

Certain names and contact details have been withheld from the information provided under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information to protect the privacy of individuals, including that of deceased individuals.

In order to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs, information has been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the free and frank expression of opinions between officials in the course of their duty. Further information that is likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information has been withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act.

All information relating to negotiations currently underway with the Transmission Gully contractor, Wellington Gateway Partnership, and/or builder, CPB HEB Joint Venture, has also been withheld under section 9(2)(j) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information in order for Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial negotiations.

All information that has been supplied to Waka Kotahi under an obligation of confidence, has been withheld in full under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act. Making this information available would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information in future, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied. Please note, this withholding ground has also been applied to the CPBHEB Discussion paper COVID19 Lockdown paper referenced on page 10 of Attachment 1.

All information not within scope of your request has been removed from the documents released.

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 withhold certain information. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Thackwray', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Thackwray
Senior Manager Project Delivery