

22 September 2021

Thomas Coughlan
Political Reporter
thomas.coughlan@nzme.co.nz

REF: OIA-8722

Dear Thomas

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 23 August 2021 to Ministry of Transport requesting a number of documents under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your request for the following documents was transferred to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on 27 August:

1. MIN-3580 Waka Kotahi Comments on applications for referral under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020: Oruku Landing project
2. MIN-3602 Query on Waka Kotahi Quarterly Report on Borrowing Facilities and PPPs
3. MINO-0235 CoF provision in Te Awamutu
4. MIN-3576 Detailed Breakdown of NZUP Cost Increases
5. MINO-0240 Wellington bus depot
6. BRI-2181 Implications of Recommended Investment levels on Continuous Allocations
7. MIN-3611 Baseline wage data for bus drivers
8. MIN-3612 Concerns raised by Rail and Maritime Transport Union (RMTU)
9. MIN-3616 NZ Upgrade Programme

These documents are outlined in the document schedule appended at the end of this response and are enclosed.

Two of the documents you have requested, *MIN-3576 Detailed Breakdown of NZUP Cost Increases* and *MIN-3616 NZ Upgrade Programme*, have been proactively released on the Waka Kotahi website and are available at <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/planning-and-investment/nz-upgrade/changes-to-the-new-zealand-upgrade-programme/>. I am therefore refusing your request for these two documents under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is publicly available.

I am also refusing your request for *MIN-3612 Concerns raised by Rail and Maritime Transport Union (RMTU)* under section 18(a) of the Act as, by virtue of section 9(2)(g)(i), there is good reason for withholding the information to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through free and frank expression of opinions between Waka Kotahi, Ministers of the Crown and other organisations in the course of their duty.

Document 7, *MIN-3611 Baseline wage data for bus drivers*, includes information on the wages of bus drivers in different regions across New Zealand. This information was gathered by Councils and

supplied for the purpose of informing the impact that providing the living wage for bus drivers would have on suppliers. In some regions there is a single wage paid to all drivers, whereas in other regions there is a range due to there being multiple providers or multiple wage rates within a provider. I am therefore withholding the hourly base rate range from this document under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons; and
- 9(2)(b)(ii) - as releasing this information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

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 part of 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 Waka Kotahi, please contact Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager, Media, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Leisa Coley

Senior Manager Government, Engagement & Partnerships

OIA-8722 Document Schedule

Ref	Document	Date	Information withheld
1.	MIN-3580 - Comments on applications for referral under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020: Oruku Landing project	7 May 2021	None.
2.	MIN-3602 - Query on Waka Kotahi Quarterly Report on Borrowing Facilities and PPPs (<i>email response</i>)	18 May 2021	Individuals' names and contact details as out of scope.
3.	MINO-0235 - CoF provision in Te Awamutu (<i>email response</i>)	19 May 2021	Individuals' names and contact details as out of scope.
NFR	MIN-3576 - Detailed Breakdown of New Zealand Upgrade Programme (NZUP) Cost Increases	26 May 2021	Publicly available
4.	MINO-0240 - Wellington bus depot (<i>email response</i>)	26 May 2021	Individuals' names and contact details as out of scope.
5.	BRI-2181 [proactive] - Implications of Recommended Investment levels on Continuous Allocations	27 May 2021	Individuals' names and contact details as out of scope.
6.	MIN-3611 - Baseline wage data for bus drivers	27 May 2021	" <i>hourly base rate range</i> " information withheld to protect people's privacy as per sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act.
NFR	MIN-3612 - Concerns raised by Rail and Maritime Transport Union (RMTU)	27 May 2021	Refused under s.18(a) that by virtue of s.9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct through free and frank expression of opinions – there is good reason for withholding the information.
NFR	MIN-3616 - NZ Upgrade Programme	28 May 2021	Publicly available.

NFR = not for release