

1 June 2021

s 9(2)(a)

REF: OIA-8059

Dear s
9(2)

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 4 May 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

[...] all papers and reports produced in the last 12 months relating to Project Next, the National Ticketing Solution, or national integrated ticketing.

[...] all communications with the Minister for transport about the same subject in the past 12 months.

You provided the following clarification to this request on 4 May 2021:

I'd like any major status updates or summary reports which detail how work is going and expected timelines for the future.

The following documents fall within the scope of your request:

- ITEM 2 – Project NEXT Status Report to Steering Group 20 January 2021
- ITEM 2 – Project NEXT Status Report to Steering Group 16 February 2021
- ITEM 2 – Project NEXT Status Report to Steering Group 17 March 2021
- ITEM 2 – Project NEXT Status Report to Steering Group 21 April 2021.

I am withholding the above documents under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information 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.

The National Ticketing Solution (NTS) will deliver value for money for New Zealanders through a centralised approach and a common customer experience. The preferred supplier is expected to be announced later in 2021, after the procurement process is complete.

Regional and local councils (as public transport authorities) are at different stages of investment with their existing ticketing providers. However, significant work has been done to align the timing of this with the timing of their procurement work.

This will be a multi-year programme where each authority will progressively transition to the NTS, aligned to their specific circumstances and requirements. The timeframes are still being agreed as part of the procurement process, and the draft roadmap shows the first implementation in late 2022; however, this is still subject to change.

We expect the first user of the NTS will be Environment Canterbury. It is also planned that all regions will have transferred to the NTS before 2026.

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

In accordance with Waka Kotahi policy this response will be published on our external website shortly.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, please contact Ministerial Services by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Charles Ronaldson
Programme Director, Commercial Projects