

30 July 2021

Danica MacLean
Multimedia Journalist
NZME
danica.maclean@nzme.co.nz

REF: OIA-8452

Dear Danica

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 13 July 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your request has been numbered for ease of reference.

1. *The amount of money spent on cleaning up rubbish on and alongside state highways across the country in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and in 2021 to June 30*
 - *That figure broken down by region*

2. *The weight/amount of rubbish cleaned up from on and alongside state highways across the country in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and in 2021 to June 30*
 - *That figure broken down by region*

1. *The amount of money spent on cleaning up rubbish on and alongside state highways across the country in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and in 2021 to June 30.*

Money spent on litter collection along the state highway network is part of a lump sum payment made to contractors which includes other activities. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency does not record information regarding the actual costs of litter collection. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to find it, cannot be found.

2. *The weight/amount of rubbish cleaned up from on and alongside state highways across the country in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and in 2021 to June 30.*

Waka Kotahi does not hold information regarding the amount of litter collected and disposed. It is not a requirement for contractors to keep a record of this. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse this request. 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, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Manager, Media, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Oldfield', written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Wayne Oldfield

Senior Manager, Maintenance and Operations