

19 October 2022

Jason Walls
NZME
jason.walls@nzme.co.nz

REF: OIA-11031

Dear Jason

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 14 September 2022 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) relating to the Transmission Gully event cost. I will set out each of your questions and my responses below:

- 1. Just to be clear, He Waka Eke Noa Charitable Trust send Waka Kotahi a \$221,545 bill for traffic management, without a detailed breakdown of what they were spending the money on?***

He Waka Eke Noa Charitable Trust (the Trust) sent a series of ten invoices over an 11-month period for services as agreed in an initial contract and a later variation to that contract. The contract and variation set out the services being offered by the Trust. The invoices themselves did not provide detailed breakdowns.

The amounts paid to the Trust include considerable planning for the opening of Transmission Gully, which was originally expected to include a formal opening ceremony and public open days to give the public an opportunity to experience Transmission Gully ahead of its opening to general traffic. Unfortunately, the public open days were unable to go ahead due to delays with completion of the project and changing COVID-19 alert levels. The planning had to be re-worked a number of times due to repeated changes of the road opening date.

Along with the considerable amount of time and effort in planning the cancelled public open days and the opening ceremony for Transmission Gully, the payments also included costs relating to traffic management, health and safety, security and facilities at the event.

- 2. On the itemised breakdown of costs, could you please provide more details on the \$19,708 charge for 'Labour charges associated with setting up and packing down equipment? How many people were involved?***

For clarity, the \$19,708 was a sum paid to Hiremaster Event and Party Limited (Hiremaster) for event equipment, furniture and consumables. Hiremaster provided a set of three invoices which included

labour costs for setting up and packing down equipment. These costs were collated to provide the sum given in WPQ-29209 (2022).

While the invoices provide the number of staff employed for some of the labour, Waka Kotahi does not hold details on the number of people involved in the set up and pack down for the whole event. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as Waka Kotahi does not hold the information requested and I have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

3. One broom cost \$58 - where is that broom now?

The broom was returned to Hiremaster.

4. The reply to the question says 40% of the \$221,545 covers costs related to the cancelled public open day (\$66,463) - could I get a bit more clarity on this? What happened to this money?

5. Why was this trust chosen for this event?

6. What expertise does it have in traffic management?

7. Why couldn't NZTA Waka Kotahi do it?

The below response addresses questions 4, 5, 6 and 7.

In April 2021, the Trust approached Waka Kotahi to express their interest in providing event management services for a series of events to celebrate the opening of Transmission Gully which, at that time, was expected to take place in September 2021. As explained above, the events initially included a number of public opening days, which would allow members of the public a unique opportunity to walk and cycle Transmission Gully ahead of the road opening to general traffic.

Following an initial meeting, the Trust was requested to provide an Offer of Service, which was received by Waka Kotahi on 12 May 2021. The Offer of Service noted that hosting of public events of this scale (initial estimates were as high as 80,000 attendees) are complex, high risk and require careful stakeholder management to ensure they are a success. This is even more so with a Private Public Partnership, where there are a number of parties involved in the building and management of the road.

Because of the Trust's experience, including providing event production services for a series of successful events to celebrate the opening of Waterview Tunnel (which also included public opening days), Waka Kotahi entered into a Contract for Professional Services with the Trust.

The decision not to proceed with public open days as part of the Transmission Gully opening was not made until early March 2022. Until this time, all plans and costs incurred with the Trust were for the event production and management of both an official opening ceremony, as well as open days that would allow members of the public to walk and cycle the road before it opened to general traffic. This planning had to be repeated for three different dates as road opening was delayed a number of times from September 2021 to December 2021 and finally to March 2022. The 40 percent figure provided in response to WPQ-28813 (2022) was an estimate made by Waka Kotahi.

8. Was there a tender process for this contract?

Because of the Trust's track record, including the successful delivery of similar events for the opening

of Waterview Tunnel, Waka Kotahi considered the Trust to be capable of delivering such events for Transmission Gully and was selected through Direct Appointment, in accordance with section 10.9 *Direct appointment and closed contest for low dollar value contracts* of the Waka Kotahi Procurement Manual.

A copy of the procurement manual is publicly available here:

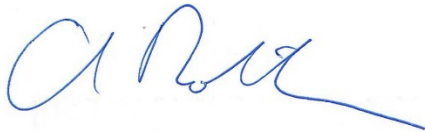
<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/procurement-manual/docs/procurement-manual-amendment-6.pdf>.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to partially refuse your request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Megan Heffield, Media Manager, by email to megan.heffield@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Robertson
National Manager – Commercial Delivery