

18 November 2022

Nikki Macdonald  
Senior Journalist  
Stuff  
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REF: OIA-11281

Dear Nikki

**Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 21 October 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Can you please forward any communications between 29 June 2021 and 19 October 2022:*

- 1) Between your chief executive or other executive manager and your communications/media staff regarding how media queries are dealt with.*
  - 2) From the office of your relevant minister regarding how media queries are dealt with*
- Please note this is a request for the entirety of any communications captured, not just any parts deemed "in scope".*

*If there have been oral discussions that have not been documented, please briefly summarise what was said, and by whom.*

I have undertaken a search of communications sent and received by the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency media team during the time period specified in your request and cannot find any communications in regard to how media queries are dealt with generally at Waka Kotahi. Therefore, I am refusing your request for this information under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information you have requested does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

In order to provide you with some information that may be useful for your request, I have enclosed a copy of the Waka Kotahi media relations and representing Waka Kotahi in the media protocols. These protocols are available to all Waka Kotahi staff and have been developed to help staff in dealings with the news media.

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

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

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, you are welcome to contact me by email to [andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Knackstedt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Andy Knackstedt**  
Senior Manager, Media