

23 June 2023

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-12788

Dear [REDACTED]

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

Thank you for your email of 29 May 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) relating to the He Tohu Huarahi bilingual traffic signs programme:

*[...] how long the proposed signs have been in development. When the idea first arose and what consultation has been undertaken (formal or informal) with Maori leaders or groups or other non Maori groups.*

He Tohu Huarahi Māori bilingual traffic signs programme has been in development since November 2020 when the then Minister of Transport made a commitment to have bilingual traffic signs introduced across the country.

He Tohu Huarahi Māori bilingual traffic signs programme has been developed in partnership with Te Mātāwai. Further, our programme has been supported by the Pae Whakamāori, a translation team of te reo Māori experts, who have helped us translate the proposed signs.

We have conducted broad engagement for this programme. Prior to the public consultation that we are currently undertaking, we completed early engagement on sign selection and design with Te Mātāwai Board, Pae Motuhake, Māori staff in local government and a group from the traffic industry. This included a workshop about how we prioritise signs that involved central government agencies as well as Te Mātāwai staff and one of its board members. We also engaged with local government Māori staff.

We also provided updates to The Traffic Control Devices Steering Group which includes representatives from Civil Contractors, Road Safety Manufacturers Association, Police and local council staff with technical expertise. We also updated other stakeholders including Iwi/hapū, the Independent Māori Statutory Board, Local Government New Zealand Te Maruata Māori Committee, New Zealand Geographic Board, Te Pūni Kokiri, Te Tari Taiwhenua Department of Internal Affairs, Aotearoa Reorua Movement, and the New Zealand Association of Optometrists.

Waka Kotahi undertook public consultation on Kura School signs proposals in late 2021. Around 90 percent of respondents supported the introduction of bilingual traffic signs. The Summary of Submissions document for the public consultation was published in April 2022 and is available on the

Waka Kotahi website <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/rules/docs/land-transport-traffic-control-devices-kura-school-signs-amendment-summary-of-submissions.pdf>.

For the current public consultation, we have provided relevant information to stakeholders that we have engaged with previously about bilingual signs. We have also provided information to local government entities including Regional Transport Committees, CCS Disability Action and NZ Māori Tourism.

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 Ministerial Services by email to [official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Duncan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Ian Duncan**

Acting National Manager Policy and System Planning

**OIA-XXXX Document Schedule [Delete this table and use method outlined above if less than 4 attachments]**

Ref	Document	Date	Description (if needed)
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[Most common grounds have been highlighted for convenience]

## **9 Other reasons for withholding official information**

(1) Where this section applies, good reason for withholding official information exists, for the purpose of section 5, unless, in the circumstances of the particular case, the withholding of that information is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

(2) Subject to sections 6, 7, 10, and 18, this section applies if, and only if, the withholding of the information is necessary to—

(a) protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons; or

(b) protect information where the making available of the information—

(i) would disclose a trade secret; or

(ii) would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information; or

(ba) protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information—

(i) would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or

(ii) would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest;

(c) avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public; or

(d) avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand; or

(e) avoid prejudice to measures that prevent or mitigate material loss to members of the public; or

(f) maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect—

(i) the confidentiality of communications by or with the Sovereign or her representative:

(ii) collective and individual ministerial responsibility:

(iii) the political neutrality of officials:

(iv) the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; or

(g) maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through—

(i) the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty; or

(ii) the protection of such Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment; or

(h) maintain legal professional privilege; or

(i) enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities; or

(j) enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations); or

(k) prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

## **18 Refusal of requests**

A request made in accordance with section 12 may be refused only for 1 or more of the following reasons, namely:

(a) that, by virtue of section 6 or section 7 or section 9, there is good reason for withholding the information:

(b) that, by virtue of section 10, the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation does not confirm or deny the existence or non-existence of the information requested:

(c) that the making available of the information requested would—

(i) be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment; or

(ii) constitute contempt of court or of the House of Representatives:

(d) that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available:

(da) that the request is made by a defendant or a person acting on behalf of a defendant and is—

(i) for information that could be sought by the defendant under the Criminal Disclosure Act 2008; or

(ii) for information that could be sought by the defendant under that Act and that has been disclosed to, or withheld from, the defendant under that Act:

(e) that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found:

(f) that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research:

(g) that 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 either—

(i) held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority; or

(ii) connected more closely with the functions of another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation or of a local authority:

(h) that the request is frivolous or vexatious or that the information requested is trivial.