

7 August 2023

[REDACTED]

Newshub

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-12990

Dear [REDACTED]

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

Thank you for your letter of 27 June 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *All surveys and public engagement on the introduction of bilingual road signs*
- *All internal correspondence regarding the introduction of bilingual road signs*
- *All research and/or reports regarding bilingual road signs, and – more generally – how people engage with road signs. And all research on the impact of having more than one element on a road sign and how people engage with those signs.*
- *All correspondence with the minister of transport/appropriate government ministers regarding bilingual road signs*
- *Any correspondence with opposition MPs/other political parties regarding bilingual road signs*
- *The cost of bilingual road signs/updating road signs to be bilingual (with breakdowns of where the costs sit – eg. consultation, translation, installation etc).*

You refined your request on 4 July 2023 to seek information from 2018 to present.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency undertook an email sweep for correspondence in scope of your refined request which returned approximately 152,000 pieces of correspondence that could be in scope of your request. Following this email sweep you spoke with Anaru Silao, Manager Transport Policy on 11 July 2023, to refine your request as follows:

- *Briefings to the Minister regarding bilingual traffic signs (from Waka Kotahi or Ministry of Transport)*
- *A breakdown of the costings for the bilingual traffic signs programme*
- *A copy of the individual submissions and summary of submissions relating to the Kura School signs*
- *A copy of Waka Kotahi research reports for bilingual traffic signs.*

I have responded to each of your questions in turn below.

## Briefings to the Minister

The attached document schedule outlines the documents in scope of your request.

Waka Kotahi has proactively released BRI-2479 at: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/advice-provided-to-ministers/#>. Therefore, I am refusing your request for this document under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

The remaining documents are enclosed. Please note, some information in these documents has been withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act – 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.

Information contained in the documents outside the scope of your request has also been redacted.

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.

## A breakdown of costings for the programme

From November 2020 to 23 May 2023, a total of \$1,040,269 has been spent on the He Tohu Huarahi Māori bilingual traffic signs programme. This figure equates to 0.022% of what Waka Kotahi has spent on local and state highway road maintenance from in the equivalent financial years from 1 July 2020 to 30 April 2023.

A detailed breakdown of the expenditure can be found below:

<b>Category of expenditure</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Safety design and rule and policy advice	\$746,492
Safety related research	\$153,000
Cultural and engagement specialist advisers	\$103,250
Translation services	\$31,552
Event-based costs for the unveiling of Kura School signs in Rotorua and Napier	\$5,975
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,040,269</b>

## Submissions on Kura School signs

Waka Kotahi undertook public consultation on the Kura School signs proposals in late 2021. Around 90 percent of respondents supported the introduction of bilingual traffic signs.

The documents in scope of this section of your request are outlined in the attached document schedule and are enclosed.

The names and contact details of some individuals have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

## Research reports

Waka Kotahi undertook research to identify international precedents for bilingual traffic signs, and to examine safety implications of bilingual signage. Bilingual signage was found to be common internationally. These reports are available at:

- <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/research/notes/005/>
- <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/research/research-notes/005/memo-likely-benefits-of-bilingual-traffic-signs-in-aotearoa-new-zealand.pdf>

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold some information. 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, please contact Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager, Media, by email to [andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



**Katie Mayes**

National Manager Policy and System Planning

**OIA-12990 Document Schedule**

Ref	Document	Date	Decision
1.	MINO-745 – Timing for proposed public consultation on next package of bilingual traffic signs	5 May 2023	Released in full
2.	BRI-2479 – Proposed public consultation on next package of bilingual traffic signs	27 April 2023	Publicly available
3.	MIN-4008 – Bilingual Signs	9 November 2022	Released in full
4.	MIN-3512 – Te Reo Māori policy for road signs and attachments	13 November 2020	Released in full
5.	MIN-3512 follow up – Bilingual signs in Rotorua	26 November 2020	Released in full, out of scope information redacted
6.	OC210592 – Options for implementing Bilingual Signs across Aotearoa	8 September 2021	Released in part, some information withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii)
7.	OC210786 – Progressing with enabling bilingual school signs	8 October 2021	Released in full, out of scope information redacted
8.	OC220027 – Approval of Land Transport Rule – Traffic Control Devices (Kura School Signs) Amendment 2021	3 August 2022	Released in full, out of scope information redacted
9.	OC220652 – Consultation on next package of bilingual traffic signs	17 February 2022	Released in full, out of scope information redacted
10.	Submission on the Land Transport Rule – Traffic Control Devices (Kura-School Signs) Amendment 2021 – Raw Data		
11.	Submission on the Land Transport Rule – Traffic Control Devices (Kura-School Signs) Amendment 2021 – AA	17 December 2021	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act
12.	Submission on the Land Transport Rule – Traffic Control Devices (Kura-School	29 November 2021	Released in full

	Signs) Amendment 2021 – Rotorua Lakes Council		
13.	Submission on the Land Transport Rule – Traffic Control Devices (Kura-School Signs) Amendment 2021 – la Ara Aotearoa Transporting New Zealand	4 November 2021	Released in full
14.	Submission on the Land Transport Rule – Traffic Control Devices (Kura-School Signs) Amendment 2021 – Waitaki District Council	19 November 2021	Released in full
15.	Submission on the Land Transport Rule – Traffic Control Devices (Kura-School Signs) Amendment 2021 – Hamilton City Council	17 December 2021	Released in full