

9 January 2024

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-14235

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your social media message of 6 December 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I would like to be provided with the approximate cost to implement the change and all emails between staff about the name change and emails between NZTA and the government about the changes.

Please note that our legal name under S93(1) of the Land Transport Management Act 2003 is New Zealand Transport Agency. Waka Kotahi is our te reo Māori name. It was first introduced and included with a trademark registered on 1 August 2008, the day on which we were established from the merger of the former Transit NZ and Land Transport NZ.

On 8 December 2023 you provided clarification that you are seeking internal emails as well as emails to the Minister of Transport's office regarding the name change of NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA).

With regard to all emails between NZTA staff, on 12 December 2023 we emailed you to advise that an agency-wide email sweep had been carried out in an effort to locate all emails within the scope of your request. You were advised that the sweep returned over 85,000 items and in order to determine which of these are in scope, each item would need to be manually reviewed which would take a considerable amount of time. As such, unless your request could be refined to limit the scope, this part of your request would be refused under section 18(f) of the Act as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

On 12 December 2023, you refined your request to:

1. Emails discussing the process required to update the NZTA name and logo, or
2. Emails to staff containing instruction/direction on how to use/apply the new name.

With this part of your request refined, we were able to identify key staff involved in these discussions and locate relevant emails between staff. These emails are enclosed within the following attachment:

- Attachment 1 - OIA-14235 – Emails.pdf

Certain information within this attachment has been withheld for the following reasons:

- Section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through 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 public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

With regard to page 66 of Attachment 1, there is an email providing a link to a CE update video in which the name change was discussed. An excerpt of this video is provided in the following attachment:

- Attachment 2 – OIA-14235 – CE update excerpt.mp4

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.

With regards to your request for emails between NZTA and the government, we have not located anything in scope of this part of your request.

This part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain this information does not exist.

With regard to your request for the estimated costs to implement the changes, the Minister of Transport has requested that we plan to give effect to the National and New Zealand First Coalition Agreement to ensure all public service departments have their primary name in English, except for those specifically related to Māori. NZTA is taking a staged approach to this and has already updated some templates. Further changes, such as rebranding official websites etc, are awaiting all-of-government guidance to fully understand the extent of the requirements.

NZTA does not have any estimates or exact figures of overall costs or costs to update specific items.

Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain this information does not exist.

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

As noted in our acknowledgement email of 7 December 2023, the information requested contains names of NZTA staff. As we have not received a response as to whether the inclusion of names is required, we have deemed these to be out of scope of your request, with the exception of the Chief Executive, Executive Leadership Team and Board members, as these names are publicly available.

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

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact Ministerial Services by email at official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Jones', written in a cursive style.

Karen Jones

Group General Manager – Engagement and Partnership