

13 February 2024

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-14262

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 10 December 2023 requesting the information pertaining to the rebranding of NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Each part of your request is addressed in turn below.

Please can you provide a copy of the written policy directive to deprioritise Waka Kothai as your main name.

The Minister of Transport has requested NZTA 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 related to Māori. We are awaiting written all-of-government guidance on using our English name first.

As we have not yet received the written guidance, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information does not exist.

Please also provide all internal (non privileged) communications between your most senior staff (CEO and direct reports and one further layer down) about any name priority change.

This part of your request is partially refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information requested will soon be publicly available.

For context, communications between the most senior staff members have been collated in response to an earlier request for all correspondence regarding the NZTA rebrand. In line with NZTA's proactive release policy, this response will soon be published online at: www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act/official-information-act-responses/.

The documents are still being finalised for publication; however, they will be available at the above website link under the heading 'Name change correspondence' within the next two weeks.

Please note that certain information in the content soon to be published has been withheld for the following reasons:

- Section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of individuals.
- 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.

In addition to the information that will soon be publicly available, additional documents have been located that fall within the scope of your request. These are enclosed in the following attachment:

- OIA-14262 – Attachment 1.pdf

Certain information within the enclosed documents has been withheld under both sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.

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.

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

As noted in our acknowledgement email of 11 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 Chief Executive and members of the Executive Leadership Team as these 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



Karen Jones

Group General Manager – Engagement and Partnerships