

28 February 2024



REF: OIA-14492

Dear 

Thank you for your email of 24 January 2024 requesting the following information about the Te Ara o Te Ata Mt Messenger Bypass (Mt Messenger) project:

Could you please let me know how much Waka Kotahi has spent in legal fees and court & hearing related costs on the Mt Messenger bypass project to date?

Your request is being considered under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) has spent \$4,131,144 on legal fees, court and hearing costs related to the Mt Messenger project as at 31 December 2023. Within that sum, \$2,225,809 was associated specifically with appeals against Resource Management Act and Public Works Act decisions. Please note these costs do not include officers and expert witness' time (or disbursements) in preparation and attendance at various hearings. Legal costs in the order of \$50,000 to \$100,000 per month continue to be incurred as a result of appeals against the project.

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 us, please contact Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager, Media by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Mark Kinvig
National Manager Infrastructure Delivery