

18 May 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-6648

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 8 May 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

When did NZTA change its name to Waka Kotahi?

Was this a decision that was made by the Board?

Copies of any correspondence between the Ministry of Transport and Waka Kotahi / NZTA regarding changing the name?

What has been the current cost and potential budgeted costs for the change in name from NZTA with waka Kotahi as a tagline to Waka Kotahi, NZTA?

Has there been any change to signage and is any change planned and what has been the cost of this? Signage includes letterheads, stationery, office building work sites

Does this cost include any amounts for staff training regarding the use and background to the name?

There are multiple parts to the request, and I will address each in turn:

1. *When did NZTA change its name to Waka Kotahi?*

Waka Kotahi is the Te Reo Māori name for NZ Transport Agency.

Through the new Māori Language Act and the development of the Maihi Karauna (the Crown's Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation 2019-2023), the government is committed to enhancing support for Te Reo Māori revitalisation by all government agencies as a normal part of the way we do business. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has also signalled its commitment to this.

One way to achieve this is to ensure Te Reo Māori is more visible to the communities we work in. As such, Waka Kotahi is giving more prominence to its Te Reo Māori name, by using it first.

In August 2019, its logo was rearranged to give more prominence to Waka Kotahi.



Waka Kotahi also updated its guidance to staff in March 2020 to use its full name “Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency” initially and thereafter “Waka Kotahi” or “the Transport Agency”.

2. *Was this a decision that was made by the Board?*

No, this decision was made by the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Leadership Team at Waka Kotahi.

3. *Copies of any correspondence between the Ministry of Transport and Waka Kotahi / NZTA regarding changing the name?*

Waka Kotahi could not find any correspondence between Ministry of Transport and Waka Kotahi regarding changing the name. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.

4. *What has been the current cost and potential budgeted costs for the change in name from NZTA with waka Kotahi as a tagline to Waka Kotahi, NZTA?*

There has been no cost associated with the change in name and there are no budgeted costs. The design work for the reorganisation of the logo and updating the Waka Kotahi Brand Manual and Style Guide to reflect the correct use of our name and logo was undertaken in-house.

5. *Has there been any change to signage and is any change planned and what has been the cost of this? Signage includes letterheads, stationery, office building work sites*

The only signage cost associated with the re-organised logo has been the partial replacement of signage in Waka Kotahi’s National Office at Chews Lane to reflect the changes to the logo. The cost for this was \$636.

There are no plans to replace any other existing signage where that will incur costs. The re-organised logo will be used for anything new, or when a replacement is required, eg when a sign deteriorates, when new stationery needs to be printed.

6. *Does this cost include any amounts for staff training regarding the use and background to the name?*

There have been no staff training costs regarding the use and background to the name. Staff were advised of the change via internal communication channels and referred to the updated Waka Kotahi Style Guide for correct usage.

With respect to the information that has been refused, 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 review my response to this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, please contact me by email to stephen.moore@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. A. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Moore
Senior Manager – Channels and Standards