

21 March 2023



REF: OIA-12077

Dear 

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 21 February 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *What is the total amount of money spent on purchasing artwork and installing artwork as part of the 2021-2024 NLTP period?*
- *Please provide the data in a spreadsheet broken down per project that has had artwork purchased and installed.*

On 14 March 2023, we contacted you to refine the scope of your request because, as it is currently worded, it is very broad in nature and would likely need to be refused. We did not receive a response from you.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency does not deliver or purchase artwork for projects as a matter of course. Artworks are included within projects where they are integrated within the project context, for example, to acknowledge significant heritage, as a mitigation requirement as part of a consent, or as part of a partnership agreement with other parties. Artworks can include, but are not limited to, sculptures, planting, lighting, earthworks, the use of colour and the architectural design of structures.

Waka Kotahi does not maintain a national database of artworks delivered across all of its projects as the costs of artworks are project specific and are not collated nationally. In many projects, the artwork component is inherent, such as a part of a bridge, retaining wall or noise barrier.

To fulfil your request, Waka Kotahi would need to manually search for and compile information on all projects that are part of the 2021-2024 National Land Transport Programme period and analyse every project to determine if it involved an 'artwork' component. In addition to the manual collation and research required to fulfil your request, certain people with expert knowledge about the projects would need to delineate costs for integrated artworks, and subsequently analyse and summarise the cost for each artwork.

As the information requested is not stored in a way that is readily accessible and cannot be made available without substantial collation and research, I am refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act.

Waka Kotahi is unable to identify any further ways of responding to you that would avoid substantial collation. We have also considered applying a charge; however, we have determined that it is not practicable in this instance.

Waka Kotahi may be able to provide information on the cost of 'artwork' for a specific project. If you would like to request information on a specific project's artwork costs, we will be able to consider your request. Please note, detail regarding the Kaikōura Cultural Artwork package is publicly available on our website and can be accessed at: www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/About-us/docs/oia-2021/OIA-7685-Response.pdf

In addition, I note that the Minister of Transport has recently replied to a Written Question on this topic (ref: 2887 (2023)) regarding the Peka Peka to Ōtaki Expressway, which stated that the total cost of artwork and cultural package was 0.46 percent of the total project budget of \$445 million. This aligns with previous projects, such as the Kaikōura Cultural Artwork package listed above.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

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

While we cannot meet your exact request, if you would like to make a request for a specific project or discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Vanessa Browne
National Manager, Programme and Standards