

18 October 2023



REF: OIA-13679

Dear 

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 20 September 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *How much money has been spent on art sculptures/structures along the Waikato Expressway in the past 12 months, broken down by each sculpture and expenditure type.*
- *For each of these sculptures/structures, I request the invoices.*

One sculpture has been erected in the last 12 months, as part of the cultural symbolism package for the Waikato Expressway Hamilton Section at the system interchange between State Highway 1 (SH1) and SH1C at Lake Road. The artwork – Te Waka sculpture at Lake Road – cost \$460,000 for the design, fabrication, and erection of the structure and \$350,000 for the design and installation of the foundation and lighting. This should be considered in the context of the overall project construction budget, which was \$737 million for the Hamilton Section of the wider Waikato Expressway project. The sculpture represents 0.1 percent of the total project construction spend.

Regarding the invoices, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) because the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Waka Kotahi does not hold any invoices that would identify this work specifically. This work was managed by the City Edge Alliance (the Alliance) set up for the delivery of the Waikato Expressway Hamilton section. Waka Kotahi received monthly invoices which included all project works completed in that month by the Alliance, which were certified by independent auditors prior to payment. We can request any invoices and contract payment vouchers that were certified by the Alliance and our auditors that cover the sculpture work specifically, but this would take significant research and collation and would incur a cost since we would require a third party to provide this information.

Te Waka is the culmination of direct labour / sub-contract and supply contracts to design, fabricate, construct, and erect the finished product. This involved multiple companies and direct labour, who all would invoice the Alliance or via timesheets. This included a traffic management company, crane

provided by an external supplier, and direct labour on the structures as a minimum. The artist was also paid by the Alliance for the development of the fabrication.

All of the costs were compiled by the Alliance and included as part of the broader works invoice per month. I also note that the physical sculpture was not fabricated / constructed as one piece. It is a composite using multiple people and materials and was a culmination of several years of work with some of the costs incurred over multiple years.

We have considered whether charging for responding to this part of your request would help, as required by section 18A of the Act. However, even after extending the request for a significant period of time, the staff time that would be involved precludes us from undertaking this work.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse part of 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.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact the Ministerial Services team, by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kinvig', with a long, sweeping underline.

Mark Kinvig
National Manager Infrastructure Delivery