

26 March 2018

John-Michael Swannix
johnmichaelswannix@mediaworks.co.nz

REF: OIA-3562

Dear John-Michael

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 12 February 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. Please provide all correspondence or details pertaining too my Official Information Act on Median Barriers, dated 20 November, OIA-3396.*
- 2. Over the last five years, yearly, (from 01/01/18) what has the Transport Agency budgeted for median barriers around New Zealand?*

I will respond to your questions in order below:

Please provide all correspondence or details pertaining too my Official Information Act on Median Barriers, dated 20 November, OIA-3396.

A copy of all correspondence related to your previous request (refer OIA-3396) has been provided as Attachment 1. Please note that some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. Some information has also been withheld under section 9(2)(h) of the Act, to maintain legal professional privilege. Information has also been withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, where the making available of the information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

A copy of the Memorandum that was prepared for the response to your previous request has been provided as Attachment 2. Note that some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(h) of the Act, to maintain legal professional privilege.

With respect to the information that has been withheld in these attachments, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

It is important to explain the context of the figures mentioned in the emails within this attachment. These figures are largely estimations, or information from the NZ Transport Agency website. These figures do not represent the cost of retrofitted median barriers in New Zealand and should not be relied on as confirmed or complete costs. This is explained further below.

Over the last five years, yearly, (from 01/01/18) what has the Transport Agency budgeted for median barriers around New Zealand?

This part of your request has been refused under section 18(f) of the Act because the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. The task of locating the budgeted costs of median barriers over the last five years cannot be provided without significant impact on the operations of the Transport Agency.

Your original request was refused as the cost of retrofitted median barriers was not calculated for almost all projects. Those that had been calculated were only estimations that officials recalled, rather than factual. In order to find accurate information, the Transport Agency would need to access archived contract documents and individually extract the barrier costs, which may not be available for some projects anyway. This task would have a significant impact on the operation of the Transport Agency.

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

I trust this response helps to clarify the reasoning behind the refusal of this part of your request, and the refusal of your last request.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Fergus Tate, Lead Safety Advisor (Roads and Roadsides), by email to Fergus.Tate@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (04) 894 6496.

Yours sincerely



Kevin Reid
Senior Manager, Operational Policy