

28 May 2024

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Crux Publishing Ltd  
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REF: OIA-15181

Dear ██████████

**Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 17 April 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*[...] I'm keen to understand how this government reached an agreement on the \$250m figure - what information was supplied, including cost breakdowns, contingencies and levels of risk from NZTA project leads and can these be public? Our readers are sceptical about how a project budget can double overnight and are looking for any reassurance that the alliance and its contractors are not simply pulling numbers out of the sky - local ratepayers have been burnt with the alliance's most recent over budget project, the Queenstown arterial road stage one. Any comment on the budget, what it reflects, how locked it is, how the spend is broken down by stages, much appreciated.*

On 16 May 2024, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) extended the 20 working days available to respond to your request, as allowed for under section 15A of the Act. We are now able to provide the information you have requested.

Please find attached BRI-2973 which was sent to Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Transport and Hon Nicola Willis, Minister of Finance seeking their endorsement to deliver a reduced scope Queenstown Package at an estimated cost of \$250 million.

Throughout the document information has been withheld for the following reasons:

- Section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.
- Section 9(2)(j) to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

With respect to the information that has been withheld, 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 withhold this information. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, please contact Andy Knackstedt, Senior Media Manager, by email to [andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kinvig', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

**Mark Kinvig**  
National Manager Infrastructure Delivery