

11 July 2024

[REDACTED]  
Centrist  
[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-15454

Dear [REDACTED]

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

Thank you for your email of 22 May 2024 requesting information around any contractual relationships which NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) has with iwi under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I will respond to each part of your request in turn.

#### **1. Can you please list the iwi your department has established a formal relationship with?**

NZTA has not established formal relationships on a general basis with iwi, of the type you suggest. However, we engage directly with many different iwi / hapu on a range of projects and topics as part of our work across the motu.

In addition, several major capital projects which are currently underway utilise an alliance approach, which formally include iwi in the Alliance. These include:

- Te Ara Tupua: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/te-ara-tupua/>
- Ōtaki to north of Levin (Ō2NL): <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/media-releases/preferred-alliance-partners-for-otaki-to-north-of-levin-highway-announced/>
- O Mahurangi – Penlink: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/penlink/mana-whenua-project-partners/>
- Te Ahu a Turanga: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/te-ahu-a-turanga/>

#### **2. Can you please provide copies of any documentation that sets out how such formal relationships will work? This may include any ministerial directives on the issue.**

As NZTA has not established any formal contractual relationships with iwi on a general basis, no such documents exist, and as such I must refuse your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

NZTA's strategy for engaging with Māori is set out in several key documents, lead by *Te Ara Kotahi – Our Māori Strategy*, which can be found at the following link, along with our iwi engagement framework, details on our relationships with iwi / hapu:

- <https://nzta.govt.nz/assets/About-us/docs/te-ara-kotahi-our-maori-strategy-august-2020.pdf>

- <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/hononga-ki-te-iwi-our-maori-engagement-framework/hononga-ki-te-iwi-our-maori-engagement-framework.pdf>
- <https://nzta.govt.nz/about-us/about-nz-transport-agency-waka-kotahi/maori-and-waka-kotahi-nz-transport-agency/>.

**3. Since 2017, how much money has been paid to any of these iwi organisations or their representatives, whether by koha or by entering into contractual arrangements?**

**4. Can you please itemise how much each iwi has been paid in total, under the respective headings of koha and contracts?**

Koha is reported to Parliament's Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee on a yearly basis as part of Parliament's oversight of the public sector. Links to all of our Annual Reviews are provided below as Appendix 1. You can undertake a keyword search in each pre-hearing submission to find the information and our associated policy for koha.

I am therefore refusing questions 3 and 4 of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as in the information is publicly available.

**5. What part of your organisation's budget provides the authorisation or appropriation of these payments?**

Koha payments are paid for from the project or team which is making the payment. Broadly, our funding comes from Vote Transport as part of the Government's yearly Estimates allocations, the National Land Transport Fund for project activities, and some Crown funding for priorities funded directly by the Government. NZTA has no central budget or fund for koha or other payments to iwi organisations.

**6. In the case of entering contracts with iwi or iwi organisations, were all these contracts put out to open tender, or was the duty to toitu te tiriti partnership seen as an overarching responsibility that did away with the requirement for open tender?**

**7. What services, if any, has your organisation obtained from iwi or their representatives under these contracts?**

**8. Has your organisation sought any audit, whether carried out internally or by external auditors, of the programmes it has purchased from any of these iwi providers, and can you provide copies please?**

In line with my response to question 2 of your request, I am refusing questions 6, 7, and 8 of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

**9. How big is your iwi liaison team?**

Iwi relationships are not managed centrally at NZTA but through multiple different teams and projects. However, Te Mātangi – Māori Partnerships holds an enterprise function to support NZTA on Te Ao Māori matters. It is a small team that works across the organisation and throughout the entire country. In the work NZTA does, it works with Māori communities to fulfil their land transport needs and aspirations. The team has a headcount of eight staff.

The primary role of the team is to lead and promote Te Ara Kotahi (our Māori strategy and action plan). It does this by delivering or supporting other business groups to deliver, strategic initiatives on

the Te Ara Kotahi work programme. This strategic role involves it 'working on Waka Kotahi' through whole of business national initiatives that support our organisation to fulfil the vision, aspirations and key priorities of Te Ara Kotahi.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse parts of your request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

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

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact Ministerial Services, by email to [official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lou Mutu', followed by a period.

**Lou Mutu**

Pou Arahi a-Motu - National Advisor Maori & Tumuaiki, Co-Senior Manager Maori (Acting)