

30 August 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
NZ Herald
[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-16073

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 2 August 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

All correspondence, including but not limited to emails, memorandums, reports, letters, and text messages, between the following agencies and groups, including NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the office of Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters, the office of Transport Minister Simeon Brown, and Chinese Embassy and/or China Consulate-General in Christchurch between the period July 16, 2024 and August 2, 2024.

The information sought in this request is to be used as part of a report by The New Zealand Herald into State Highway 8, the Tekapo-Twizel Highway.

On 16 July 2024, we partially transferred the part of your request for information between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Chinese Embassy, and the China Consulate-General in Christchurch to MFAT for response.

Also on 16 July 2024, we partially transferred the part of your request for information between the Minister of Transport's office and the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Minister of Transport for response.

The following documents fall within the scope of your request and are enclosed:

- Excerpt of NZTA Weekly Report week ending 26 July 2024.
- OIA-16703 emails.
- IMG_0123.

The third attachment is a text message received by the Office of the Minister of Transport on 19 July 2024.

Certain information in the OIA-16703 emails has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information to protect the privacy of natural persons.

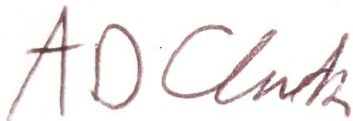
With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

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.

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 NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, please contact Andrew Knackstedt Senior Manager, Media, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "AD Clark". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Andrew Clark
National Manager, Maintenance and Operations