

15 October 2024

s9(2)(a)

REF: OIA-16521

Dear s9(2)(a)

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 12 September 2024 to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Can you tell me how much in costs the Buller District Council's project management office claimed from NEMA?

How much of that was outside the parameters set by NEMA?

Where the invoices paid by NEMA or queried?

What were the claims for?

How was it outside the parameters?

What were the parameters involved?

Does NEMA want the money back, if it paid them?

You have confirmed that the claims referred to were claims to NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and not NEMA. Therefore, your request was transferred to NZTA on 24 September 2024. I have addressed your questions in turn below.

Can you tell me how much in costs the Buller District Council's project management office claimed from NZTA?

The PMO did not separately claim from NZTA. Costs were associated with emergency works following cyclone damage, National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) and ongoing roading maintenance funding. Investigations are ongoing to determine how much was claimed through the Buller District Council's Project Management office.

How much of that was outside the parameters set by NZTA?

Investigations are ongoing to determine the ineligible claims and NZTA is unable to confirm how much was outside our parameters until the investigation is complete. Payments were made under NLTP, special projects, emergency works/maintenance payments and also cyclone event funding. Due to the

complexity of the cyclone event and the timing on when the Buller PMO was established, detailed audit and analysis is required before we can quantify exact amounts related to claims.

Where the invoices paid by NZTA or queried?

What were the claims for?

How was it outside the parameters?

Work is ongoing to investigate the claims. As stated above, payments potentially covered NLTP agreed and scheduled funding, emergency works/maintenance payments and also weather event emergency funding. All claims were submitted and went through NZTA standard processes and checks before payment.

What were the parameters involved?

The funding criteria for claims is outlined on the NZTA website at www.nzta.govt.nz/planning-and-investment/planning-and-investment-knowledge-base/archive/202124-nltp/2021-24-nltp-managing-programmes-and-activities/claiming-via-transport-investment-online-processes-and-rules/

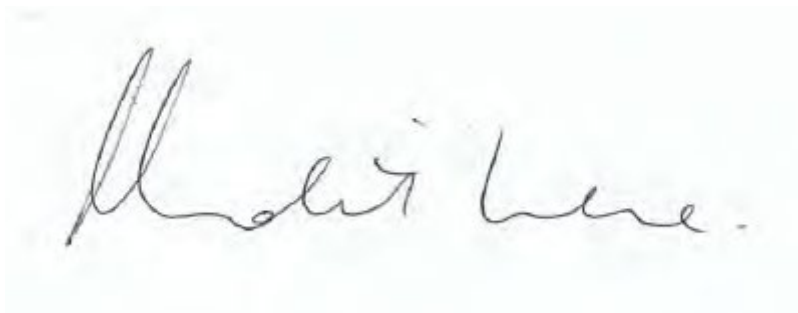
Does NZTA want the money back, if it paid them?

Buller District Council has been advised that we reserve the right to reclaim payments that do not meet our funding criteria. This will not be decided until the investigation is complete.

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 Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager, Media by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meredith Ussher', is written on a light blue background.

Meredith Ussher

Group General Counsel - Governance, Risk & Legal