

11 December 2024

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-16986

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 13 November 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

How do I obtain the written consultation with the management of Seeka at Aongatete, mentioning to the managers of your intentions to close off work Rd?

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) follows international guidelines for best practice consultation and engagement and provide a range of ways members of the public and businesses can learn about our projects, participate in consultation, and give feedback about our proposals. For this project, this included several open days and drop-in sessions, which were widely publicised, online consultation tools, displays and newsletters, presentations to local councils and relevant organisations, and information provided to media, on social media and our website. Project contact details are available so interested parties can contact us directly.

Throughout the lifetime of this project, there have been multiple rounds of engagement and consultation activity as documented in our communications and engagement summary, which is publicly available at the following link: www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh2-waihi-to-tauranga-corridor/sh2-waihi-to-omokoroa/engagement/.

Through following these guidelines consultation is not always done in written format. Therefore, I am refusing 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 engaged with businesses affected by the Waihi and Omokoroa safety improvement projects including option 4A, which was the proposal to install median barriers, and provided multiple opportunities to raise any specific concerns with NZTA. Seeka has been on NZTA's stakeholder contact list for a number of years. They have been involved in a range of consultations, including engaging in emails directly with planners, receiving invitations to attend meetings and events, and directly receiving letters about the scope of the project. This included being specifically invited to a stakeholder workshop on Wednesday 17 February 2022 at the Katikati War Memorial Hall, which included information on the median barriers as well as other aspects of the safety improvements along this corridor.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse this request. 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 NZTA, please contact the Ministerial Services team, by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Wiles', is positioned above the printed name.

Peter Wiles
National Manager Infrastructure Delivery