

27 May 2019

Gerard Byrne  
fyi-request-10219-676ad9aa@requests.fyi.org.nz  
fyi-request-10220-e9c93b51@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-5043

Dear Gerard

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

Thank you for your email of 28 March 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. all emails between the Maintenance Contract Manager for Northland and the Principle Safety Engineer, Auckland, in 2015 relating to all Maromaku safety issues, including the installation of a speed bump, relocation of signage and upgrading of signage etc you may redact any names you feel are sensitive etc*
- 2. all emails from the Maintenance contract manager for Northland in 2015 to the Contractor representative for state highway maintenance for NZTA Northland with cc's to RCA.*

The NZ Transport Agency wrote to you on 15 May 2019 asking you to refine and narrow down your request. The Transport Agency has advised you that it considers the scope of your request to be very broad and involves substantial collation and research.

You wrote to us on 16 and 20 May 2019 clarifying your request as follows.

- 1. the request is quite specific requesting ALL correspondence between the two employees of NZTA relating to maromaku safety issues. there was only one MCM in 2015 up to sept and if there was more than one principle safety engineer then all emails etc from all the principle safety engineers for 2015 involving Maromaku safety issues. [...] how about just from march 2015-sept 2015, that should narrow it down a little bit.*
- 2. these emails are between another party. only one employee is from question 1. there will be some maromaku issues as well as others, but communicated through different people, please highlight any issues involving the Journey manager for Northland in 2015. if you need her name i can give it ti you once again from march 2015 - sept 2015 will be fine.*

You have narrowed down the timeframe to include emails between March and September 2015. However, you have also requested additional information, which is "*highlight any issues involving the Journey manager for Northland in 2015.*"

We have carried out another Agency-wide email search which has returned an estimated 4,500 emails. Those emails will need to be collated and assessed to determine whether they are in scope of your clarified request. We consider that this information cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

Rather than refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act (the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research), the Transport Agency has decided to grant your request, but charge you for making the information available.

The Transport Agency estimates that it would take us approximately 105 hours to respond to your request. The maximum charge for this will be \$7,904. This will cover research, retrieval, collation, editing, scanning and/or photocopying, and review and supervision by a subject matter expert to ensure that the tasks have been carried out correctly and the correct information has been collated. This charge is for 104 hours at \$76 per hour of staff time in excess of one hour.

The Transport Agency is not aware of any considerations in the public interest that warrant the charge being discounted.

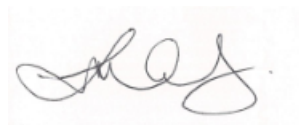
Before we proceed further with our response to your request, please confirm your agreement to the charge and pay 50 percent of the amount above as a deposit, with the balance to be paid on release of the information. We will send you the information within 35 working days of your payment and any unused component of the maximum charge will be refunded to you.

Under section 28 of the OIA, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review this decision. 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 the Transport Agency, please contact Ministerial Services at [official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz). Ministerial Services will be able to assist you with paying the deposit if you decide to accept this charge.

If you wish to change or refine your request in order to reduce or remove the need to charge, the Transport Agency will be happy to consider your new request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leisa Coley', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

**Leisa Coley**  
Manager, Ministerial Services