

9 October 2019

Hugh Davenport
fyi-request-11282-79fc5e7e@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-5863

Dear Hugh

Extension of time to respond to request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 24 September 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

'I read recently that NZTA and the Waikato Regional Council are putting in around \$700,000 per year in order to provide a living wage of \$21.15 to bus drivers who are members of First Union.

As the NZTA is a central authority, I find it a bit concerning that the NZTA is providing wages for employees of a private company (Go Bus Limited), though I definitely do see value in encouraging more drivers given the national skill shortage in the industry.

I would like to request the following information:

- *The exact yearly figure that NZTA is contributing for the Waikato bus drivers*
- *How many years that NZTA will be contributing*
- *How are any increases or decreases to that amount decided*
- *How is the money distributed (ie, does NZTA pay Go Bus Limited directly, or is there an escrow)*
- *All correspondence with Go Bus Limited in regards to the bus driver pay dispute.*
- *All correspondence with Waikato Regional Council in regards to the bus driver pay dispute*

In addition, I would like to request the following information:

- *For all other private bus companies in New Zealand that NZTA contributes funds to, the amount of money that NZTA is contributing for the purpose of increasing driver pay rates*
- *For all other public transport organisations (for example, Auckland Transport, Metlink/Greater Wellington Regional Council) that NZTA contributes funds to, the amount of money that NZTA is contributing for the purpose of increasing driver pay rates*
- *For all bus driver union organisations in New Zealand that NZTA contributes funds to, the amount of money that NZTA is contributing for the purpose of increasing driver pay rates*
- *For all private bus companies, public transport organisations, or bus driver union organisations in New Zealand, all correspondence between NZTA and that organisation in regards to driver pay disputes.*

Further, I would like to request information on any upcoming pay dispute settlements involving NZTA around New Zealand.

Finally, if there are no other organisations that NZTA are providing funds to, or in the planning process of providing funds to, then I would like to request a bit of information on how NZTA is providing the entire country with value with this agreement with First Union and/or Waikato Regional Council and/or Go Bus Limited.'

This letter is to advise you that the NZ Transport Agency is extending the 20 working days available to respond to your request, as allowed for under section 15A of the Act. We require an additional 15 working days to respond to your request. We will send you a response on or before 13 November 2019.

The deadline is being extended because of the large quantity of information you have requested. Locating, collating and copying this information will take more than the 20 working day limit.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to extend this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

If you would like to discuss the extension with the Transport Agency, please email official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leisa Coley', with a small dot at the end.

Leisa Coley
Manager, Ministerial Services