

By email

18 June 2020

File Ref: OIAP-7-15309

Tony Randle

fyi-request-12893-b482924e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Shed 39, 2 Fryatt Quay
Pipitea, Wellington 6011
PO Box 11646
Manners Street
Wellington 6142
T 04 384 5708
F 04 385 6960
www.gw.govt.nz

Dear Mr Randle

Request for information OIA 2020-072

I refer to your request for information dated 26 May 2020, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) on 26 May 2020. You have requested the following information:

"I am interested in the work and supporting calculations for the planned Fare Review to be undertaken as part of the 2020/21 Annual Plan that I understand will shortly be subject to a short public consultation. This information is requested to support a possible submission on the fares to be proposed as part of the annual plan public consultation and so provision of this information in time to be analysed and included into a submission is an important element of this request.

1) Can I please have a copy of any reports, presentations or workshop material on the proposed public transport fares since November 2019? Please include any appendices.

2) Can I please have a copy of any reports, presentations or workshop material on the impact of the proposed public transport costs on fares and/or the Farebox Recovery Ratio since November 2019 ? Please include any appendices.

3) Can I please have a copy of the detailed calculations used to support the Farebox Recovery Ratios for the 2020/21 year ?

4) Can I please have a copy of the detailed public transport costs used in the calculation of the Farebox Recovery Ratios as outlined in 3) ?

5) Can I please have a copy of the detailed revenue estimates used in the calculation of the Farebox Recovery Ratios as outlined in 3) ?



6) Can I please have a copy of any council workshops where the 2020/21 Farebox Recovery Ratios were discussed including any agenda, workshop attendees, minutes and presentation information ?

If the requested information is held in electronic form, I would prefer it was provided in its complete and original electronic format. I would also prefer that all correspondence be via the FYI web site."

GWRC's response is as follows:

The annual fares review for this year started in the second quarter of 2019/20 as part of the Annual Plan process for 2020/21. The review involved looking at the past performance for 2018/19 and a preliminary fare level and compliance review based on the latest patronage and financial forecasts for the 2019/20 (current year) and 2020/21 (Annual Plan year).

The preliminary results were presented to a Council workshop on 26 November 2019 as part of the Council discussions on budget for the 2020/21 Annual Plan. This was followed by some background analyses, which was underway until the Government declared the state of emergency in response to COVID-19 pandemic from late March.

Given the significant impacts that COVID-19 has had on patronage, fares and fare revenue, the annual fares review has not been able to proceed any further until more is known about the extent of the impacts, possible courses of recovery from the pandemic and the extent and availability of the Government's funding support for the foregone revenue.

Therefore the information you have requested is only available until the end of February 2020. Please note that the background information we are providing to you as part of this response are working documents and the values contained in these documents are subject to change.

We have provided you with the following information:

Council workshop material on public transport fares since November 2019

Attachment 1 is a copy of the fares related information presented to the Council workshop on 26 November 2019 as part of this year's Annual Plan process. The slides in Attachment 1 are extracted from an original document that also included information which was outside the scope of your request. The out of scope information has therefore been removed from Attachment 1.

Please note that Council workshops do not have any formal agenda or minutes. Depending on the subject, presentations may outline the topics for consideration by Council in the workshops. No agenda or minutes have been recorded on the subject of fares review presented to the Council on 26 November 2019.

As the Annual Plan process progresses, GWRC constantly updates the cost and revenue forecasts for current year and the budget for next year. Therefore some values in Attachment 1 (from 26 November 2019) may not be the same as the values for the same variables in the

background analyses provided in Attachments 2(a) and 2(b), which contain the latest updates by end of February 2020. Some formulas have also been adjusted to balance costs with any associated external or other revenue.

While values may change over time as a result of this updating process, the changes in values generally do not significantly affect the overall outcomes.

Supporting cost and revenue information and calculations

Attachments 2(a) and 2(b) are electronic copies of the preliminary background analyses and calculations used for reporting on actual 'User Contribution' ratios for 2018/19 and projections for 2019/20 and 2020/21 under the current Long Term Plan.

The background analyses include details of the actual cost and revenue information for 2018/19, forecasts for 2019/20 and the budget update for 2020/21 based on the latest information available by end of February 2020.

Payments to the operators have been withheld in accordance with section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) as releasing this information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the operators or suppliers of this information.

The payment information for Electric Fleet Premium is subject to ongoing contract negotiations with operators. In accordance with section 7(2)(i) of the Act, withholding of this information is necessary to enable GWRC to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations with operators.

Accordingly, we have provided you with the requested information in two formats:

- Attachment 2(a): is an electronic copy of the calculations (with the actual and projected cost information relating to contracts deleted) in a format that gives the formulae
- Attachment 2(b): is an electronic copy of the calculations (with the actual and projected cost information relating to contracts deleted) in a format that gives the figures but does not give the formulae behind the figures

Please note that with these formats the values in the 'Summary Report' are affected in Attachment 2(a). This has occurred because the formulas in that part of the document rely on the redacted values in other worksheets. Where data has been deleted from a cell, the value of the cell becomes zero; however any formula that uses the redacted cell will still be visible in the formula bar.

We have considered whether the public interest in the requested information outweighs GWRC's need to withhold certain aspects of the requested information. As a result, we do not consider that the public interest outweighs GWRC's reason for withholding parts of the documents under the grounds identified above.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Scott Gallacher
General Manager, Metlink