

14 March 2022

Mr M P Ross
fyi-request-18700-4e660b7f@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-9616

Dear Mr M P Ross

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 27 February 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982.

Under the Official Information Act I request the following information regarding Victor Strategy and Communications, run by former senior advisor to Jacinda Ardern, Clint Smith.

1) How much money has Waka Kotahi spent on services provided by Victor Strategy and Communications since 2017?

1a) In what capacity has Waka Kotahi used Victor Strategy and Communications since 2017?

1b) Please provide a breakdown of costs

2) Has Waka Kotahi used Victor Strategy and Communications services in terms of Social Media related posts since 2017.

2a) If so, please provide copies of said posts.

3) Please provide invoice dates (and amounts) from Victor Strategy and communications to Waka Kotahi since 2017.

I will address each of your questions in turn.

Question 1: Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has not spent any money on services provided by Victor Strategy and Communications since 2017.

Question 2: Waka Kotahi has not used any services provided by Victor Strategy and Communications in terms of Social Media related posts since 2017.

As Waka Kotahi has not had any business with the company in question, I am unable to answer questions 1a, 1b, 2a and 3 because the information requested does not exist. Therefore, I am refusing all parts of your request under section 18(e) of the Act because the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

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.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Ministerial Services by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. A. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Stephen Moore
Senior Manager, Channels and Standards