



13 June 2022

By email: fyi-request-19342-457216c8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Luke

Official Information Act request
Our Ref: OIA353/1

1. On 14 May 2022, by email, you made the following request under the Official Information Act 1982 (**the Act**) to the Crown Law Office:

This is an Information Request relating to [CIV-2021-485-756].

Please release the Crown's most recent Statement of Defence that was provided to the applicants (Waters Users' Group (NZ) Incorporated).

Please also release the expenditure of the law office on this particular case to date and the expected total spend.

2. Please find **attached** a copy of the Statement of Defence as filed on 2 May 2022.
3. In respect of your request for the expenditure of the Crown Law Office to date as at 31 May 2022, the Crown Law Office has billed \$37,467 (exclusive of GST) to the Department of Internal Affairs in relation to this matter. It has also billed \$5,416 of disbursements to the Department of Internal Affairs (this includes filing fees and external counsel costs) (exclusive of GST).
4. In relation to the request regarding the expected total spend we refuse your request under section 18(a) of the Act. This is because legal professional privilege is a good reason for withholding information under section 9(2)(h) of the Act and, in the circumstances, it is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make that information available.

5. You have a right under section 19(b) of the Act, by way of complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3), to seek an investigation and review of the refusal of your request.

Yours faithfully

Crown Law

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Bowden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Amy Bowden
Crown Counsel