



PO Box 14001
Christchurch 8544
New Zealand
Telephone (+64 3) 358 5029

christchurchairport.co.nz

6 June 2023

Caroline Ogle

Email: fyi-request-22719-66c67fb9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Ms Ogle,

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982 (OIA) – TWO (2) REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION - CHRISTCHURCH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED (CIAL)

1. We write further to our email of 9 May 2023, acknowledging receipt of your two OIA requests of 8 May 2023 to CIAL seeking the following information:

Request 1 - Received Monday 8 May 2023 7.00pm: Response to requests from Tarras residents to meet with CIAL

For groups, individuals or families that CIAL can identify as being from the Tarras district or Upper Clutha between 1 May 2022 and 27 April 2023 received to the project team directly or via central@christchurchairport.co.nz

1. *How many requests, offers or open invitations to meet a CIAL representative were received*
2. *How many of these requests, offers or open invitations to meet were followed up with a meeting, telephone or video call?*
3. *From requests, offers or open invitations made, but not followed up with a meeting, telephone or video call, what was the largest number of requests, offers or open invitations made from one group, individual or family over the period?*
4. *How many requests to meet were initiated from CIAL to groups, individuals or families during the same period?*

Request 2 - Received Monday 8 May 2023 7.03pm: Email requests from community re Central Otago Airport

For groups, individuals or families that CIAL can identify as being from the Tarras district or Upper Clutha between 1 May 2022 and 27 April 2023 received to the project team directly or via central@christchurchairport.co.nz

1. *How many emails with requests for information or queries were received?*

2. *What was the average number of days to respond to these requests or queries from the day they were sent by the requestor to the day the response addressing the request or query was sent by CIAL?*
 3. *What proportion of the request or queries were responded to in full?*
 4. *Of the requests or queries not responded to in full, what was the largest number of request or query emails not fully completed from a single group, individual or family over the period?*
2. CIAL will provide you with the requested information where it is able. However, you will note within this letter that it is occasionally unable to release requested information if it would prejudice or disadvantage CIAL's commercial activities. Before we answer you specific queries, it may be helpful to provide some context to this.
 3. At present, CIAL is under no legal obligation to consult in relation to the abovementioned project "the Project". To assist public understanding of the context of the Project and CIAL's decisions, CIAL has committed to, and does, proactively publish information as it completes pieces of work which is likely to be in the public interest to receive on its dedicated Project web-site at <https://www.centralotagoairport.co.nz/>.
 4. As you may be aware, CIAL is a council-controlled trading organisation that has been specifically established to operate and manage its business as an independent commercial undertaking for the purposes of making a profit, and to follow generally accepted commercial practices and disciplines. CIAL is not a public body collecting and spending public funds. It operates as a wholly commercial, standalone entity. Due to the size and scale of those activities it is one of only three major airports in New Zealand regulated under Part 4 of the Commerce Act 1986.
 5. As an airport, CIAL has a further overriding obligation under the Airport Authorities Act 1966, and reinforced by the Civil Aviation Act 2023, to act as a commercial undertaking. It does so in a commercially competitive environment both domestically and internationally, where its competitors are not under corresponding disclosure requirements. The proposed Central Otago airport Project is a complex commercial activity, acknowledged as being in competition with the interests of other airports within New Zealand.
 6. Before we address each of the specific requests, we address the qualifying criteria you have specified as applying to each of Request 1 and Request 2.

For groups, individuals or families that CIAL can identify as being from the Tarras district or Upper Clutha between 1 May 2022 and 27 April 2023 received to the project team directly or via central@christchurchairport.co.nz
 7. We record, in addition to the email address you refer to above these information requests may come in through a number of different sources, including:
 - other "cial.co.nz" email addresses
 - community engagement consultants engaged by CIAL
 - verbally, including by telephone, or in person at, or following, meetings and workshops.
 8. CIAL does not collect personal data within an electronic database for the Project in the manner in which your question contemplates. No centralised index or database of groups, individuals or families which would contain the identifiers that would fall within the scope of your request exists. Establishing whether this "qualifying criteria" has been met would require CIAL to review and manually extract information across a

range of sources to determine whether a potentially relevant group, individual or family resided within the Tarras or Upper Clutha districts.

9. Further enquiries would inevitably be required to validate that initial assumption where an address was not provided, or the creation of information not presently held and within scope. To do so and to confirm that CIAL has taken all reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy of information released would involve the diversion of personnel for a substantial period of time.
10. To that extent, determining the threshold issue of whether a person was subject to Requests 1 and 2 would require both information that does not exist and information that cannot be made available without substantial collation and research. Except as we have responded below, your request is refused under Section 18(e) and 18(f) of the OIA.
11. We also note more generally, CIAL's approach to engagement, information on which can be found at its dedicated Project web-site at <https://www.centralotagoairport.co.nz/>. CIAL is under no legal obligation to consult in relation to the Project or otherwise publicly engage at present. To assist public understanding of the context of the Project and CIAL's decisions, CIAL has committed to respectfully engaging with the community and proactively publishing information as it completes pieces of work.
12. Notwithstanding this we now endeavour to respond to each of your specific queries in turn. We respond as follows:

Request 1 (Response to requests from Tarras residents to meet with CIAL):

1. How many requests, offers or open invitations to meet a CIAL representative were received.

See our response at paragraphs 7 to 10 above and para 12(2) below.

2. How many of these requests, offers or open invitations to meet were followed up with a meeting, telephone or video call?

CIAL has met with a number of different individuals and entities, including specific representatives of community groups, business groups, businesses, and local authorities. A breakdown of these is provided below:

	Description	
1	Individuals - residents	Various
2	Individuals - Business & others	Various
3	Mana whenua	Hui with 3 Papatipu Rūnunga and their representatives at various dates
4	Community & member groups	Meetings with various groups
5	Secondary Schools	Cromwell College, Mt Aspiring College, Dunstan High School at various dates
6	Business Groups	Meetings with business groups at various dates

7	Local Authorities	Central Otago District Council, Cromwell Community Board and Christchurch City at various dates.
8	Sector Workshops	July 2022

Attendance numbers at meetings have not been recorded and numbers used in the table above are estimates only. References to meetings also includes those held by Zoom, Microsoft Teams or other means during Covid-19. Except as described in row 7 above, those were non-public meetings, including where CIAL has responded to invitations to it to speak, including local secondary schools.

CIAL is confident that where there has been a reasonable request to meet, it has done so in line with its approach to engagement described above and its statutory requirements, including under the OIA.

- 3. *From requests, offers or open invitations made, but not followed up with a meeting, telephone or video call, what was the largest number of requests, offers or open invitations made from one group, individual or family over the period***

See our response above.

- 4. *How many requests to meet were initiated from CIAL to groups, individuals or families during the same period***

CIAL does not retain a centralised index or electronic database containing information on who initiated meetings. See our response at paragraphs 7 to 10 above and para 12(2) above.

Request 2 (Email requests from community re Central Otago Airport):

- 1. *How many emails with requests for information or queries were received?***

CIAL does not maintain a centralised index or electronic database which contains each and every email request for information or queries in relation to the Project in the manner contemplated. Responding to this request would require CIAL to review and manually extract the information sought. To do so would also involve the diversion of personnel for a substantial period of time.

- 2. *What was the average number of days to respond to these requests or queries from the day they were sent by the requestor to the day the response addressing the request or query was sent by CIAL?***

See our response above.

- 2. *What proportion of the request or queries were responded to in full?***

See our response above.

- 3. *Of the requests or queries not responded to in full, what was the largest number of request or query emails not fully completed from a single group, individual or family over the period?***

See our response above.

13. We trust we have answered your requests for information. If you require any further information or we have in some way misinterpreted your requests, please let us know.
14. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decisions contained in this letter. Information about how to contact the Ombudsman or make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

CIAL LEGAL TEAM

Email: legal@cial.co.nz