



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

christchurchairport.co.nz

25 August 2023

Simon Richardson

Email: fyi-request-23641-50f58dc3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mr Richardson

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

1. We write further to our email of 02 August 2023, acknowledging receipt of your OIA request of 30 July 2023 seeking information (if held by CIAL) in relation to the proposed Central Otago airport project.

We have answered your request in this letter and for completeness, we set out your request below.

Request: Received 30 July 2023 – Central Otago Airport Connectivity

I saw the ODT article this weekend and then went to your website. I was particularly in this [page](#). I can see that this page was first published some time ago.

Firstly, your website says “Many of Central Otago’s key sectors of employment require high-quality transport connections to operate successfully.” Please provide all documentation, analysis and data which supports this point and leads you to this conclusion. Please provide detailed modelling you have on file to substantiate this claim.

Secondly, you state that shortage of air capacity will likely result in a) reduced choice, b) longer journey times, c) increased cost and d) higher emissions. Please provide the documentation, data, analysis, including external peer reviewed studies and analysis, which you relied on when making each of these four statements. In respect of these documents, please provide the date each document first appeared within your organisation.

2. From the outset, please note that CIAL will provide you with the requested information where it is able. The OIA permits an organisation to refuse to release requested information it holds if the withholding of such information is necessary to enable the organisation to carry out its commercial activities or negotiations without

prejudice or disadvantage (s 9(i) and s9(j) OIA) provided that such withholding is not outweighed in the circumstances by the public interest in making the specific information available. For example, while it may be in the public interest to understand that CIAL is investigating the feasibility of establishing an airport in Central Otago that does not mean CIAL must share every detail of its analysis, work or negotiations within specific work streams.

3. At present, CIAL is under no legal obligation to consult in relation to 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/>. Until work is completed, it is not capable of being released. Over time this will see more information voluntarily released. In such instances the public interest test will have been considered and weighed up as part of the decision whether to release information or not. Equally, each OIA query CIAL receives will be assessed on a case by case basis given the particular given facts and circumstances at play at that time.
4. 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.
5. As an airport, CIAL has a further overriding obligation under the Airport Authorities Act 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. Taking each of your specific queries in turn, we respond as follows:

Request:

I saw the ODT article this weekend and then went to your website. I was particularly interested in this [page](#). I can see that this page was first published some time ago.

Firstly, your website says "Many of Central Otago's key sectors of employment require high-quality transport connections to operate successfully." Please provide all documentation, analysis and data which supports this point and leads you to this conclusion. Please provide detailed modelling you have on file to substantiate this claim.

From the outset, Rhys Boswell's comments were referring generally to the level of connectivity and infrastructure services. As CIAL will shortly be releasing general summary information, further details and information are withheld under Section 18(d) of the OIA, given such information requested in respect to the above will soon be made available.

Secondly, you state that shortage of air capacity will likely result in a) reduced choice, b) longer journey times, c) increased cost and d) higher emissions. Please provide the documentation, data, analysis, including external peer reviewed studies and analysis, which you relied on when making each of these four statements. In respect of these

documents, please provide the date each document first appeared within your organisation.

As outlined above, further details and information are withheld under Section 18(d) of the OIA, given such information requested in respect to the above will soon be made available.

7. We trust we have answered your requests for information. If you require any further information or if we have in some way misinterpreted your requests, please let us know.
8. 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