



2 December 2024

Patrick George O'Rourke
fyi-request-25160-6e040339@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Patrick

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 13 December 2023. Your request was:

I live in Marlborough and the success of my employer and the local economy depends on KiwiRail Interislander Infrastructure that is decayed and outdated. I'm interested in the I-Rex project development and changes the new government has taken in approaching the project.

As a result, I ask that you please release any advice you have received about funding this project, and any communication and consultation taken with the local MP, Stuart Smith.

Information will soon be publicly available

The Treasury, alongside other Government departments and KiwiRail, is preparing to proactively release a number of documents relating to Project iReX. This release will cover information within scope of the first part of your request for advice about founding Project iReX, and will soon be publicly available on Treasury website:

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/other-official-information/information-releases>.

Accordingly, I have refused this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Information does not exist

I do not hold any information within scope of the last part of your request for communication and consultation taken with the local MP, Stuart Smith.

Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

I acknowledge the important role that the Cook Strait ferries have in supporting the regional Marlborough economy. Please be assured that this Government is committed to ensuring the Strait remains resilient and reliable and is exploring options to achieve this that, relative to Project iReX, provide greater value for taxpayer's money.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Willis', with a large, sweeping initial 'N'.

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance