



2 July 2024

Anon

fyi-request-26927-baafaa74@requests.fyi.org.nz

Kia ora

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-032554

Thank you for your email of 22 May 2024, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I am writing to request copies of general contractual agreements between ACC and external legal counsel for representation on reviews, appeals or any other matters pertaining to conflicts with claimants.

I request all internal policies, rules, guidelines, process, memos, and all other documents, pertaining to:

- (1) When to hire external legal counsel to assist with disputes with claimants; and*
- (2) Conditions of the contractual agreement; and*
- (3) Required notifications to claimants that external legal counsel has been contracted to represent ACC and the nature and limits to that representation (for what purpose); and*
- (4) Required notification to claimants as to what information ACC will be sharing with the external legal counsel (e.g., specific to a claim, complaint on claim, review or Court litigation); and*
- (5) In what instances it is appropriate for ACC employees to cc external legal counsel into communications with claimants; and*
- (6) How a claimant may obtain the service agreement between ACC and the external legal counsel, to ensure that ACC employees are not sharing information outside of the contracted agreement.*

1. ACC is required to make a decision about whether to grant or refuse your request as soon as reasonably practicable and within 20 working days of receiving the request. ACC considers this request is one of multiple requests made by the same requester, which may affect ACC's decision to grant or refuse the request.

2. In order for ACC to make a decision on this request, ACC requests that you provide:

- a. Your full name and confirmation of your identity, and
- b. the reasons for the request.

3. We ask that this information be provided as soon as possible to enable us to make a decision on your requests. This may include ACC extending the timeframe for responding, charging for the request, or refusing to grant the request because:

- a. ACC has already provided this information in an earlier request; and/or
- b. the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research; and/or
- c. the request is frivolous or vexatious or the information requested is trivial; and/or
- d. the request may relate to matters including proceedings under Part 5 of the Accident Compensation Act 2001.

4. If you would prefer, this information can be provided confidentially to ACC at the following address: Manager OIA Services, ACC, PO Box 242, Wellington, or by email to Christopher.johnston@acc.co.nz. Any information/documentation provided establishing your identity will be used solely for that purpose and destroyed after. Please reference this request when doing so: **GOV-032554**

5. We look forward to receiving the information requested at paragraph 2.

If you have any questions about this letter, please get in touch

You can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz. If you are not happy with this letter, you can also contact the Ombudsman via info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Ngā mihi



Christopher Johnston
Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement