

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport
Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



OIA24-271

Dan Moskovitz
fyi-request-27335-368c3fca@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Dan

I refer to your email dated 23 June 2024, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"I request all official advice received during your term in office regarding the Interislander ferry service."

On 17 July 2024, my Office advised you that your request had been partially transferred to the Treasury for a response under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, as some information requested is believed to be more closely aligned with their functions.

On 23 July 2024, my Office advised you that the timeframe for responding to your request was being extended to 29 July 2024, in line with section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, due to consultations required to provide a response.

23 documents fall within the scope of your request and are detailed in the document schedule attached as Annex 1. The schedule outlines how the documents you requested have been treated under the Act.

Certain information is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 9(2)(i) | to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities |
| 18(d) | the information requested is or will soon be publicly available. |

With regard to the information that has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, I am satisfied that the reasons for withholding the information at this time are not outweighed by public interest considerations that would make it desirable to make the information available.

Several documents within scope of your request are refused for release under section 18(d) of the Act, the information requested will soon be made publicly available. The Ministry of Transport, Treasury and Maritime New Zealand will be publishing the respective documents on their websites.

I note the Treasury previously published a large suite of iReX documents on its website on 10 May 2024, which can be found here:

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/information-release/official-information-regarding-kiwirails-project-irex-phase-1>.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simeon Brown', written in a cursive style.

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport

Annex 1 - Document Schedule

Doc#	Date	Document	Decision on release
1	23/06/2024	MV Aratere update and next steps – Speaking points (OC240696)	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on the Ministry of Transport's website shortly (www.transport.govt.nz).
2	23/06/2024	MV Aratere update and next steps – Cabinet paper (OC240697)	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on the Ministry of Transport's website shortly (www.transport.govt.nz).
3	23/06/2024	Fortnightly report – WE23 June 2024	Withhold in full under section 9(2)(i)
4	22/06/2024	MV Aratere Grounding – Bullet Points for Picton 1400 22 June (OC240695)	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on the Ministry of Transport's website shortly (www.transport.govt.nz).
5	20/06/2024	Cook Strait resilience phase two report: options analysis (OC240547)	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on the Ministry of Transport's website shortly (www.transport.govt.nz).
6	12/06/2024	Weekly report as at 12 June 2024	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on the Ministry of Transport's website shortly (www.transport.govt.nz).
7	05/06/2024	Weekly report as at 5 June 2024	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on the Ministry of Transport's website shortly (www.transport.govt.nz).
8	29/05/2024	Weekly report as at 29 May 2024	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on the Ministry of Transport's website shortly (www.transport.govt.nz).
9	28/05/2024	Cook Strait resilience phase one report (OC240407)	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on the Ministry of Transport's website shortly (www.transport.govt.nz).
10	08/05/2024	Weekly report as at 8 May 2024	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on the Ministry of Transport's website shortly (www.transport.govt.nz).
11	24/04/2024	Weekly report as at 24 April 2024	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on the Ministry of Transport's website shortly (www.transport.govt.nz).
12	19/04/2024	Cook Strait ferry services - roadmap for key decisions (T2024/1073)	Transferred to the Treasury
13	17/04/2024	Weekly report as at 17 April 2024	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on the Ministry of Transport's website shortly (www.transport.govt.nz).
14	31/01/2024	Ministerial Advisory Group on KiwiRail's Inter-island Ferry Service (T2024/74)	Transferred to the Treasury
15	30/01/2024	Treasury Report: KiwiRail – resolving Project iReX obligations (T2024/94)	Transferred to Treasury

16	26/01/2024	Approach to the assessment of the long-term requirements for a resilient cook strait connection (OC240031)	Refused under section 18(d). This document is publicly available on the Ministry of Transport's website: https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/OC240031-Approach-to-the-assessment-of-the-long-term-requirements-for-a-resilient-Cook-Strait-connection-signed-8.03.24-Redacted.pdf
17	19/01/2024	Weekly report for the week ending 19 January 2024	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on the Ministry of Transport's website shortly (www.transport.govt.nz).
18	20/12/2023	Joint Report: Next steps to ensure Cook Strait services (OC231104)	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on the Treasury's website shortly (www.treasury.govt.nz).
19	11/12/2023	Cabinet Paper: Crown support for KiwiRail's Project iReX	Publicly available on Treasury website
20	9/12/2023	Aide Memoire: Project iReX potential alternative options (OC231024)	Publicly available on Treasury website
21	29/11/2023	Project iReX – information and upcoming decisions (T2023/1904)	Publicly available on Treasury website
22	6/12/2023	Safety and Maintenance Incidents Involving Inter-islander (KiwiRail)	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on Maritime New Zealand's website (https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/).
23	1/02/2024	Interislander Reliability	Refused under section 18(d). This document will be published on the Treasury's website shortly (www.treasury.govt.nz).