

3 February 2025

James
fyi-request-29464-233020c1@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-17161

Dear James

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 6 December 2024 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

On 24 January 2025, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) extended the 20-working-day time limit to respond to your request as allowed for under section 15A of the Act. We are now able to provide the information you have requested. Your specific questions, which you refined on 17 January 2025 and our responses are outlined below.

1. *The total costs incurred if any for work undertaken by NZTA in relation to the recent Hikoī in November. This should include costs from initial contact through to final execution for the Hikoī throughout NZ.*

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) does not hold this information. Therefore, this part of your request has been refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

NZTA covered the cost of temporary traffic management (TTM) in some regions however, these costs will not be available until mid-February 2025.

The costs of NZTA's internal staff time are part of the staff salaries. NZTA does not require permanent staff to record how many of their working hours are spent on a specific task or project. Therefore, the total costs incurred by NZTA cannot be calculated.

2. *Please detail what actions/role/ part NZTA had in facilitating the hikoī.*

NZTA manages incidents that occur on the state highway network as a part of our regular operations function. This includes responding to crashes, weather events (slips, floods), and activities or events, such as the recent hikoī. Our role is to respond to ensure the safety of road users, and to minimise disruption to journeys where possible. These functions were active during the hikoī.

The multi-agency response to the hikoi was led by NZ Police. NZTA monitored the effect of the hikoi on state highway traffic, and deployed traffic management resources, where requested by Police, to keep the public and hikoi participants safe. In addition, we provided travel information to the public via our website, social media channels, and media, to help people plan their journeys around expected disruption resulting from the hikoi moving on state highways.

At the request of NZ Police, NZTA agreed to facilitate the safe crossing of the Auckland Harbour Bridge.

In agreement with NZ Police, NZTA developed and implemented an operations plan to keep road users and hikoi participants safe during this crossing and minimise disruption to road users. This plan considered health and safety factors for participants, NZTA staff and contactors, the Auckland Harbour Bridge asset, and road users. As part of this, safety expectations were communicated to and agreed with the hikoi organisers.

3. Please provide the number of staff and total time that staff worked on the hikoi.

This part of your request has been refused under section 18(g) as the information is not held.

A response team was stood up by NZTA including internal NZTA staff as well as staff working at Wellington Transport Alliance (WTA), the Wellington Transport Operation Centre (WTOC), the Auckland Transport Operation Centre (ATOC) and Auckland System Management (ASM) and public information and communication staff. It's important to note that for many staff in these roles responding to, or being part of, the incident response is their business-as-usual work. It is not possible to provide the number of total staff involved in supporting the hikoi.

The amount of time that internal NZTA staff worked on the hikoi cannot be provided as NZTA does not hold this information. As mentioned earlier, the costs of NZTA's internal staff time are part of the staff salaries and cannot be calculated for a specific task or project.

4. Please provide all documentation/approvals regarding healthy and safety assessments, insurance.

Documents in scope of your request are outlined in the document schedule appended to this letter.

Please note that some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons
- section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.

5. Please provide the initial contact emails between NZTA and the Hikoi organisers - this should include introductions, best contacts moving forward, and early questions around planning and clearly demonstrate who the NZTA was dealing/meeting with.

Document 10 provides the summary of the initial phone call and emails between NZTA and the Hikoi organiser nominated to be a point of contact for NZTA. Personal details have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

6. Please provide any emails that that were to/from/cc'd to Eru Kapa-Kingi or any representative from the Māori party.

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

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold and refuse some of the information. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact the Ministerial Services team by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "AD Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Andrew Clark
National Manager Maintenance & Operations

Document Schedule:

Nr	Document	Comments
1.	06112024 Draft Hikoi PIM Plan	Personal information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
2.	ASM, 13 Nov National Hikoi Ops Plan v1	Personal information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
3.	ASM Operational Risk Control Plan	Personal information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
4.	Communications Plan Hikoi 2024 ASM Auckland	Personal information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
5.	Ops plan for National Hikoi 11112024	Personal information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Free and frank expression of opinions withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
6.	WTA-151-REP-JM plan 2024 Hikoi plan	Released in full.
7.	WTOC - Hikoi March Comms Plan - November 2024	Personal information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Free and frank expression of opinions withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
8.	Final version 2 - 2024 11 11-15 - ATOC Ops Plan - National Hikoi (2)	Personal information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
9.	Toitu Te Tiriti - Approved Traffic Management Plan	Personal information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
10.	Initial emails between NZTA and Hikoi organisers	Personal information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Free and frank expression of opinions withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.