

3 October 2016

Dr Robert Shaw

fyi-request-4485-74fd2bf7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Robert

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your phone call of 22 August 2016 and email of 23 August 2016 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982:

- Confirmation of whether the mills providing steel for the two major projects in Taranaki were the same as those identified as providing non-compliant steel;
- A list of the 'Chinese companies that have been called into question recently'; and
- A list of the 'Chinese companies which have provided the steel for the two major projects in Taranaki recently'.

The two major projects in Taranaki are the Vickers to City project and the Normanby project. Neither of these projects has been supplied with steel from a manufacturer that has previously provided non-compliant steel to the NZ Transport Agency.

The Transport Agency is only aware of one Chinese steel manufacturer that has been called into question recently in relation to our projects. As this information is currently the subject of detailed and sensitive commercial negotiations between Fulton Hogan-HEB, NZ Steel & Tube, and the manufacturer, I am withholding this information under section 9(2)(j) of the OIA which states that the withholding of the information is necessary to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

The Vickers to City project is supplied with stressing strand from Jiang Yin Fasten Steel Products. The Normanby project is supplied with stressing strand from Silvery Dragon Prestressed Material Company. Neither of these manufacturers has been identified by the Transport Agency as having supplied non-compliant steel and both are fully accredited by appropriate authorities.

Under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, you have the right to apply to an Ombudsman for an investigation and review of the decision to refuse this information. Their email address is www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Neil Cree, National Manager Network Outcomes, by email to neil.cree@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil Walker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Neil Walker
Highway Manager Wellington
For Chief Executive