

19 September 2017

Harriet Gale

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Dear Harriet

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 22 August 2017 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Could I please be supplied any correspondence regarding the removal of the Wellsford-Whangarei Business aka Whangarei to Te Hana business case from being publicly accessible the NZTA website?

We have identified three documents that fall within the scope of your request. These documents are two email trails of 8 August 2017 (Attachment 1 and Attachment 2) and one email trail of 22 August 2017 (Attachment 3).

Please note that names and contact details have been withheld from these documents in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. This decision is made under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

We have investigated whether there was any political involvement in the removal of the Whāngārei to Te Hana Programme Business Case from the website, and confirm that the statement in the first email of Attachment 1 – that the Programme Business Case was being removed from the website at the request of the Minister's Office – is incorrect and was a complete misrepresentation of what occurred.

There was no directive, request or communication with the Minister or the Minister's Office or anyone external to NZ Transport Agency staff and contractors pertaining to the removal of the Programme Business Case from the project website.

The decision to remove the Programme Business Case was entirely an internal Transport Agency staff decision.

The Programme Business Case was removed in order to update some important information. The Programme Business Case can be viewed at:

www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/whangarei-to-te-hana/Whangarei-to-Auckland-PBC.pdf

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Media Manager by email to Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on 021 276 3222.

Yours sincerely



Raewyn Bleakley

General Manager, Governance, Stakeholders & Communications