

Hon Dr Megan Woods



MP for Wigram

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission

Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration

Minister of Research, Science and Innovation

OIA18-109

Sam Shead

fyi-request-7477-fbf13ec3@requests.fyi.org.nz

24 MAY 2018

Dear Mr Shead,

Official Information Act Request: electronic communications between your department and Zephyr Airworks employees, Kitty Hawk employees and Larry Page

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 20 March 2018. You requested:

All electronic communications between your department and:

- *Zephyr Airworks employees*
- *Kitty Hawk employees*
- *Larry Page*

Please find enclosed the following documents:

Subject	Date	Withheld
Just tried to call back but I have rubbish timing	10 November 2017	Partially withheld under section 9(2)(a)
Re: In Confidence: Request to brief the Minister on US/ NZ econ dev project	24 November 2017	Partially withheld under sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii), and 9(2)(ba)(i)
Follow up action points.	14 February 2018	Partially withheld under sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(i), 9(2)(b)(ii), and 9(2)(ba)(i)
Draft launch video for approval	7 March 2018	Release in full
Cora_LaunchVid_v2a_180306.mp4	7 March 2018	Partially withheld under section 9(2)(a)
News from Zephyr Airworks – On behalf of Fred Reid Chief Executive	13 March 2018	Partially withheld under section 9(2)(a)

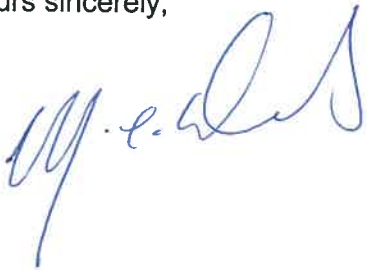
Parts of the enclosed documents have been withheld on the following grounds under the Official Information Act:

- section 9(2)(a): protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons
- section 9(2)(b)(i): protect information where the making available of the information would disclose a trade secret

- section 9(2)(b)(ii): protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or the person who is the subject of the information
- section 9(2)(ba)(i): protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely,

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

Hon Dr Megan Woods
Minister of Research, Science and Innovation

From: [Anna Kominik](#)
To: [Marie Morgan](#)
Subject: Just tried to call back but I have rubbish timing :-)
Date: Friday, 10 November 2017 2:49:38 PM

Anna Kominik
Zephyr Airworks Ltd

section 9(2)(b)

From: [Anna Kominik](#)
To: [Marie Morgan](#)
Subject: Re: In Confidence: Request to brief the Minister on US/ NZ econ dev project
Date: Friday, 24 November 2017 4:22:54 PM

Hi Marie

Hope you have survived the week.

Just checking in to see if there is any word on a potential meeting with the Minister?

Realise things are still in flux but we have a few meetings to sort and am trying to remain flexible for Minister's

Best wishes
Anna

On Sun, 12 Nov 2017 at 6:51 PM Marie Morgan [\[redacted\]](#) wrote:

Hi Anna

Nice to hear from you.

Sorry you've missed getting me by phone. I'd been in and out of the office a lot on Friday and away over the weekend.

I'll definitely bring this to the Minister's attention and note that the project is highly confidential.

Talk next week.

Regards

Marie

From: Anna Kominik [\[redacted\]](#)

Sent: Friday, 10 November 2017 2:41 PM

To: Marie Morgan [\[redacted\]](#)

Subject: Fwd: In Confidence: Request to brief the Minister on US/ NZ econ dev project

Hi Marie

OUT OF SCOPE

I wanted to put in a request to brief Minister Woods in her Research, Science and Technology [\[redacted\]](#) around a collaboration between New Zealand Government agencies and an exciting new project that intends to spark a world-first industry [\[redacted\]](#)

The project is highly confidential and because of the commercial sensitivity, everyone who has been briefed so far has signed a Non Disclosure Agreement. However, below is

the high level -

- The project is being undertaken by Zephyr Airworks, the NZ arm of a Silicon Valley-based Zee.Aero – a company that is looking to bring to market a revolutionary aircraft concept that will revolutionise the way we think about moving goods and people.
- The company has been developing the product for more than seven years in the US and last month the first vehicle was shipped to New Zealand.

sections 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(ba)(i)

- For the past months we have been working with the Civil Aviation Authority to achieve certification and have also started working with Government agencies and local providers to identify the jobs and infrastructure required for New Zealand to capitalize on this opportunity.
- Zephyr decided to come to New Zealand after a global search to find a jurisdiction that is safe, had aviation experience and was a good place to do business. It settled on New Zealand as the ideal location and has been working with MBIE, MoT, Airways, the Christchurch Mayor, Christchurch New Zealand and Christchurch International Airport for the past months. DPMC has also been briefed.
- We are also undertaking a significant investment in focus groups and research into public attitudes to the future of transport and we are sharing this with the New Zealand government.
- Successfully launching this type of vehicle is likely to be a world-first with the potential of spearheading a new industry in New Zealand and globally.

sections 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(ba)(i)

The President of Zephyr Fred Reid will be in New Zealand from **4 - 6 December** and would be keen to meet with the Minister and show her some of our video footage and other collateral.

We are intending to launch early next year but are prepared to coordinate a date that is most useful for Government Ministers.

We would also extend an open invitation for the Minister to visit our facilities in Mountain View in Silicon Valley, adjacent to the Google Campus.

Happy to chat this through by phone/ face-to-face in more detail.

Kind regards

Anna Kominik

Anna Kominik

Director Corporate Affairs and Market Strategy

Zephyr Airworks Ltd

section 9(2)(a)

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Anna Kominik
Zephyr Airworks Ltd

section 9(2)(a)

OUT OF SCOPE

From: Anna Kominik [redacted] section 9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, 14 February 2018 11:15 p.m.

To: Hayden Munro; Becky Kraakman

Subject: Follow up action points.

Hi Hayden and Becky

Great to be working with you both on the announcement.

As requested, here are what I see as the key actions for the coming weeks - please feel free to amend/ add to.

19 February	<p>Confirm times to film PM and Minister for launch video</p> <p>We need to complete filming by Friday 23 Feb (NZ time) so we can meet our production deadlines for the launch video.</p> <p>Entirely up to you whether you have the Minister and Prime Minister separate or together.</p>	Hayden
19 February	<p>Briefing note on launch, draft script for video, FAQs on Zephyr provided to Minister's Office</p> <p>Becky, I will provide you with material from our side - including how we refer to ourselves, our key messages around our presence in NZ and how we are planning to run the launch.</p>	Becky
26 February	Filming complete	Anna/ Hayden
2 March	Draft video to Minister and PMO for approval	Anna
6 March	Final sign-off from Minister and PMO	Hayden
14/15 March	TBC (could be 11/12 March) - placement in US and NZ publications	Anna

section 9(2)(b)(ii) and section 9(2)(ba)(i)

	<p>28 - 30 March: Sebastian Thrun expected to be in New Zealand. I would like to request a meeting with Minister Woods and Minister Parker. As discussed I will put in a separate request to PMO for a meeting with the PM.</p> <p>Sebastian has not yet set confirmed those dates, so if they won't work for her or the PM, please let me know and we will arrange for a better time.</p>	
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Other Ministers

We didn't discuss the other Ministers - Ministry of Transport is obviously one of our key partners and we have been keeping the Ministers up-to-date with developments. Will we leave you/ MBIE to manage the other Ministerial offices with an interest in the announcement? We would anticipate that Minister Twyford may want to say something after the initial new cycle and are providing the same material we are giving to MBIE to CAA, Airways and Ministry of Transport - as well as the Christchurch City Council/ Christchurch NZ - as all are likely to be approached for comment.

Video

Below is the link to the launch video draft framework that we have just put together for internal planning purposes -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bCzCa6xmYWx16Tg8wzTafOVqPgB59I2O/view?usp=sharing>

The comments for the Prime Minister and Minister are purely placeholders and we will leave it to you to script them as appropriate - but it gives you a sense of the look and feel and tone of the video.

The video can be standalone or be used by media to slice and dice for their own use.

(You will need to download the zip file and extract it. Then click on the Presentation file. It works like a Powerpoint. You just arrow click to move through it.)

We would request that you don't distribute the video or the link as it contains still highly confidential imagery and it announces the branding of the plane.



All the best for the ChCh visit tomorrow, Hayden.

Regards

Anna

Anna Kominik
Director, Corporate Affairs and Market Strategy
Zephyr Airworks Ltd

section 9(2)(a)

www.govt.nz - your guide to finding and using New Zealand government services

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From: [Anna Kominik \(via Google Drive\)](#)
To: [Ben Cunliffe](#)
Cc: [Anna Fleming](#)
Subject: Cora_LaunchVid_v2a_180306.mp4
Date: Wednesday, 7 March 2018 3:23:22 PM

anna.kominik@zephyrairworks.co.nz has shared the following video:

 [Cora_LaunchVid_v2a_180306.mp4](#)



Hi Ben and Anna - could you please review this version. Apologies an updated version came through. Anna

[Open](#)

Google Drive: Have all your files within reach from any device.
Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA



From: Anna Kominik [redacted] section 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 7 March 2018 12:38 PM
To: Hayden Munro [redacted] section 9(2)(a); Becky Kraakman
[redacted] section 9(2)(a)
Subject: Draft launch video for approval

Hi Hayden

Please find attached a copy of the draft launch video - can you please review to make sure you are comfortable with the Minister's content.

There is still quite a bit of tweaking happening - new music coming (it is being composed) and some of the stock footage.

If you could give me feedback by midday tomorrow that would be fantastic. If this is too tight, please let me know.

As always, please only distribute as absolutely necessary and please make it clear that it is not for further distribution.

Hayden, I have updated Becky on NY Times - [redacted] section 9(2)(a) would like to speak to the PM.

Please let me know if you can't get access to the file.

 [Cora_LaunchVid_v1_180305 \(1\).mp4](#) 

Best
Anna

Anna Kominik
Director, Corporate Affairs and Market Strategy
Zephyr Airworks Ltd

[redacted] section 9(2)(a)

OUT OF SCOPE

From: Anna Kominik

section 9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 13 March 2018 2:19 PM

To: Anna Kominik

Subject: News from Zephyr Airworks - On behalf of Fred Reid Chief Executive

To our Kitty Hawk Corporation and Zephyr Airworks friends and supporters
We are delighted to advise you that later today Tuesday 13 March [NZT]/ Monday 12 March (PST), we are expecting two articles to be published online - one in the *New York Times* and one in the *Christchurch Press* - announcing the presence of our prototype air taxi *Cora* in New Zealand.

While this is still confidential until publication, we wanted to give you an early heads up.

The articles will also coincide with the launch of the Government's Innovative Partnerships Programme, of which we are very proud to be part of.

In our communication, we have highlighted the important role New Zealand is playing in re-imagining the future of air travel – also recognising the value that we place on New Zealand's world class regulatory standards, innovative culture and goals for a sustainable future.

Today is the result of eight years of tackling the toughest challenges in aviation and, while we have still a long way to go, being public is a significant milestone for our company and one we couldn't have achieved without your support.

Over the coming days, we expect that there will be ongoing media and you may be approached for comment.

Our website cora.aero will be going live later today and contains information, images and our launch video. We will also be active on social media with the hashtag #meetcora and through the following social media accounts:

Cora's Twitter: @CoraAero

Cora's Instagram: @Cora.Aero

If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to contact myself or Anna Kominik.

Thank you again for your part in helping us create a new era in flight.

Fred Reid

Chief Executive, Zephyr Airworks

Anna Kominik
Director, Corporate Affairs and Market Strategy
Zephyr Airworks Ltd

section 9(2)(a)