

16 March 2023

Richard Young
fyi-request-22103-d629ce9f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-12231

Dear Richard

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 14 March 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I note that in OIA 10175 in June 2022 that four sections of Attachment 1 were redacted under 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA (Free and frank opinions).

On reading the remainder of the memo (dated 18/2/22) it seems unlikely that the subject matter of four redacted sections would qualify under the Ombudsman's interpretation of free and frank opinions.

(<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ombudsman.parliament.nz%2Fresources%2Ffree-and-frank-opinions-guide-section-92-gi-oia-and-section-72fi-lqoima&data=05%7C01%7Cofficial.correspondence%40nzta.govt.nz%7C6b1539ff39114ba6448508db242d7ae8%7C7245e48ca9ff4b2898ef05cfa8edb518%7C0%7C0%7C638143549981645499%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjojV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sd ata=v96Ps%2B7bcj9zYNWw3Tqbj0zvpLGh80oyFrY%2B6I5hCIE%3D&reserved=0>).

Therefore - as a matter of urgency - please can you review that memo and, if the redactions are not consistent with the OIA, release the full Memo.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has reviewed the Memo titled *Auckland Harbour Bridge shared path safety assessment, 18 February 2022* and removed the second and third redactions on page 3. However, we consider that the remaining redactions on pages 3 and 6 must remain and the information should continue to be withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to 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 Waka Kotahi, please contact Ministerial Services by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leisa Coley', with a small dot at the end.

Leisa Coley
Senior Manager Government