

23 August 2023

Grace Haden
fyi-request-23603-16d80571@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-13189

Dear Grace

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 26 July 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

By way of OIA please provide all documentation which gives a back ground to the creation of the words Waka kotahi including consultation with the public with regards to the adoption of the maori name for a crown entity

Provide the legislative references which create any legality to the words Waka Kotahi and approvals from parliament for this creation showing who approved this and when

Please provide the costs of rebranding and trademark costs etc. associated to making Waka Kotahi the main name as opposed to the legal name coming first

Also provide documentation which show why the name was not trademarked and the consequences of any one registering a company Waka Kotahi Ltd

I am particularly concerned that assigning undefined non legal terms to legal entities which can confuse the public and potentially opens the door for fraudulent on the public. Please provide all documentation which show that consideration of a undefined name has on accountability to the public .. frequently in news articles the statement is made that waka Kotahi is doing this or that.. how can an undefined name act or hold assets .. please provide any evidence you can that justifies the use of this undefined name

Regarding the parts of your request for:

- Background to our 2019 name change
- Consultation with the public
- Rebranding costs.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has previously published two responses to these questions in 2020, and these are available on our website at the following links:

- www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act/official-information-act-responses/non-media-official-information-act-oia-responses/

- <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/About-us/docs/oia2-2020/oia-6648-response.pdf>
- <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/About-us/docs/oia2-2020/oia-6760-response.pdf>

I am therefore refusing these parts of your request under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is publicly available.

In relation to the parts of your request seeking information about, and the costs of, the trade mark process, I am advising you that Waka Kotahi is extending the 20 working days available to us to respond to your request, as allowed for under section 15A of the Act. We need a further 10 working days and will respond to your request on, or before 6 September 2023.

We are extending the deadline because of the consultations required for Waka Kotahi to respond to your request are such that a decision could not be made within 20 working days. It will take us more than 20 working days to thoroughly respond to these parts of your request.

However, I can confirm that Waka Kotahi has a trade mark on both our legal name and “Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency”. These are available on the New Zealand Intellectual Property Office’s website.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse parts of this request and extend other parts. 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



James Sorensen
Manager Ministerial Services, Enterprise