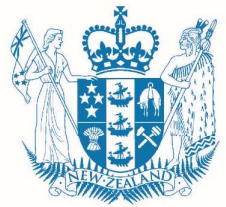


Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Justice
Minister for State Owned Enterprises
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations



7 February 2024

Patrick George O'Rourke
fyi-request-25161-55c44150@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Patrick George

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 13 December 2023. You requested for:

...any advice you have received about funding this project, and any communication and consultation taken with the local MP, Stuart Smith.

Information will soon be publicly available

The Treasury, alongside other Government departments and KiwiRail, is preparing to proactively release a number of documents relating to Project iReX. This release will cover information within scope of the first part of your request for advice about funding Project iReX, and will soon be publicly available on Treasury website:

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/other-official-information/information-releases>.

Accordingly, I have refused this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act, as the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Information does not exist

I do not hold any information within scope of the last part of your request for communication and consultation taken with the local MP, Stuart Smith.

Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

I acknowledge the important role that the Cook Strait ferries have in supporting the regional Marlborough economy. Please be assured that this Government is committed to ensuring the Strait remains resilient and reliable and is exploring options to achieve this that, relative to Project iReX, provide greater value for taxpayer's money.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Goldsmith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a stylized 'L' at the end.

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for State Owned Enterprises