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19 September 2023

Rod Fee

**Email:** [fyi-request-23917-d665beb2@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-23917-d665beb2@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Rod

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982 (OIA) – REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL**

1. We refer to your recent request to the Christchurch City Council pursuant to the Official Information Act, seeking the following information (if held by CIAL) in relation to the proposed Central Otago airport project:

**Request Received via fyi.org.nz – Tuesday, 22 August 2023, 9.34am: Official Information Request – Briefing from Christchurch Airport to CCC**

*“From the confidential briefing reported in media 6-August between Christchurch City Councillors and Christchurch International Airport Ltd please provide the following information:*

*1. Information provided to the council in preparation for the meeting, during the meeting or post meeting that refers to Tarras residents individually or in aggregate*

*2. Information provided to the council that refers to local businesses, groups or societies (if a definition is required, local can be defined as within 50km of the boundaries of CIAL land)”*

2. Pursuant to section 12(b)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, this request was transferred in full to the Christchurch International Airport Limited (CIAL) on 24 August 2023 to respond.
3. CIAL will provide you with the requested information where it is able. Each OIA query CIAL receives is assessed on a case by case basis, given the particular facts and circumstances in play at that time. CIAL is investigating the feasibility of establishing an airport in Central Otago and at present, CIAL is under no legal obligation to consult in relation to the Project. In addition, CIAL is also operating in a commercially competitive environment and this must be weighed against the considerations of public interest. Before we address your specific queries, it may be helpful to provide some additional context to this.

4. CIAL is a council-controlled trading organisation that has been specifically established to operate and manage its business as an independent commercial undertaking for the purposes of making a profit, and to follow generally accepted commercial practices and disciplines. CIAL is not a public body collecting and spending public funds. It operates as a wholly commercial, standalone entity. Due to the size and scale of those activities it is one of only three major airports in New Zealand regulated under Part 4 of the Commerce Act.
5. As an airport CIAL has a further overriding obligation under the Airport Authorities Act to act as a commercial undertaking. It does so in a commercially competitive environment both domestically and internationally, where its competitors are not under corresponding disclosure requirements. The proposed Central Otago airport project is a complex commercial activity, acknowledged as being in competition with the interests of other airports within New Zealand.
6. The Project is currently in the planning and validation phase which involves a process of obtaining and analysing information. As the owner of the Christchurch City Holdings Limited, the majority shareholder of CIAL, the Council wishes to receive updates in respect of the Project. As you will be aware the meeting between CIAL and Christchurch City Councillors was a confidential publicly excluded briefing.
7. For the reasons already outlined, the disclosure of such information to the public may prejudice the supply of similar information which is in the public interest they receive. Accordingly, at this time, any information provided to Christchurch City Councillors in relation to the confidential publicly excluded briefing is withheld under Section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982.
8. We trust we have answered your requests for information. If you require any further information or we have in some way misinterpreted your requests, please let us know.
9. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decisions contained in this letter. Information about how to contact the Ombudsman or make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

**CIAL LEGAL TEAM**

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