


OC240684

18 July 2024



Tēnā koe 

I refer to your email dated 19 June 2024, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *“Any advice, reports, briefings on the possibility of tolling the O Mahurangi - Penlink highway produced by the ministry since last October.”*
2. *Any recommendations provided to ministers regarding tolling O Mahurangi - Penlink produced by the ministry since last October.”*

Twelve documents fall within the scope of your request and are detailed in the document schedule attached as Annex 1. The schedule outlines how the documents you requested have been treated under the Act. Document #2 is already publicly available and the link to it is included in the schedule.

Certain information is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 9(2)(a) | to protect the privacy of natural persons |
| 9(2)(f)(iv) | to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. |

The information that you have requested generally only makes up a small part of the documents included in your request, such as the Ministry’s weekly report which covers all aspects of the transport portfolio and are proactively released on our website. For ease of reference and collation, most of the released material consists of extracts of larger documents.

In addition, I note that document #1 was created by the Ministry in the context of informing the Minister’s office (rather than the Minister himself) of potential decisions and incoming papers at the start of this term. The released extracts are therefore not Government policy.

With regard to the information that has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, I am satisfied that the reasons for withholding the information at this time are not outweighed by public interest considerations that would make it desirable to make the information available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman’s website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

The Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on the Ministry website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā



Matt Skinner
Manager Revenue

Annex 1 – Document Schedule

Doc#	Date	Document	Decision on release
1	28 November 2023	Extract from Tier 2 Briefing List and 100 Day Action Tables	In scope section of document released. Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
2	20 December 2023	OC230975 Land Transport Revenue System	You can find the relevant information here (pg. 132): https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/21BriefingsfromDecember2023.pdf
3	1 March 2024	Extracts from Transport portfolio weekly report Week commencing 1 March 2024	Withheld in full under 9(2)(f)(iv)
4	8 March 2024	Extracts from Transport portfolio weekly report Week commencing 8 March 2024	Withheld in full under 9(2)(f)(iv)
5	18 March 2024	Extracts from Transport portfolio weekly report Week commencing 18 March 2024	In scope sections of document released in annex 2. Some information withheld under 9(2)(f)(iv)
6	25 March 2024	Extracts from Transport portfolio weekly report Week commencing 25 March 2024	In scope sections of document released in annex 2. Some information withheld under 9(2)(f)(iv)
7	28 March 2024	OC240283 - Extracts from New Zealand Initiative Conference Speech 2024	In scope sections of document released . Some information withheld under 9(2)(a). Some information out of scope.
8	2 April 2024	Extracts from Transport portfolio weekly report Week commencing 2 April 2024	In scope sections of document released in annex 2. Some information withheld under 9(2)(f)(iv)
9	8 April 2024	Extracts from Transport portfolio weekly report Week commencing 8 April 2024	In scope sections of document released in annex 2. Some information withheld under 9(2)(f)(iv)
10	15 April 2024	Extracts from Transport portfolio weekly report Week commencing 15 April 2024	In scope sections of document released in annex 2. Some information withheld under 9(2)(f)(iv). Some information out of scope.
11	29 April 2024	Extracts from Transport portfolio weekly report Week commencing 29 April 2024	Withheld in full under 9(2)(f)(iv)
12	6 May 2024	Extracts from Transport portfolio weekly report Week commencing 6 May 2024	In scope sections of document released in annex 2. Some information out of scope.

Annex 2 – Weekly Report updates regarding Penlink Advice and recommendations

18 March 2024 - Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport

Project: Other revenue policy	
<p>We are working with NZTA on options to improve the cost-efficiency of the Penlink tolling scheme § 9(2)(f)(iv). Getting accurate costings and specifications for non-gantry options will require a separate procurement process, which will take 2–3 months to complete. We are re-assessing the options and the priority of decisions and will provide an update on likely timing as soon as possible.</p>	
§ 9(2)(f)(iv)	§ 9(2)(f)(iv)

25 March 2024 - Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport

Meeting with the Ministry of Transport (the Ministry) Monday 25 March 2024	Due date
<p>Penlink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officials to provide clear timeframes and additional detail on what decisions are needed when. 	Complete – covered

Project: Other revenue policy	
<p>§ 9(2)(f)(iv) We will still work with NZTA on options to improve the cost-efficiency of the Penlink tolling scheme § 9(2)(f)(iv). Getting accurate costings and specifications for non-gantry options will require a separate procurement process, which will take 2–3 months to complete. We are re-assessing the options and the priority of decisions and will provide an update once NZTA has better cost information.</p>	
§ 9(2)(f)(iv)	§ 9(2)(f)(iv)

2 April 2024 - Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport

Ongoing actions from transport officials meeting		
Officials Meeting date	Action	Due date
25 March 2024	<p>Penlink</p> <p>Officials to provide clear timeframes and additional detail on what decisions are needed when.</p>	§ 9(2)(f)(iv)

Project: Other revenue policy	
§ 9(2)(f)(iv)	§ 9(2)(f)(iv)

8 April 2024 - Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport

Ongoing actions from transport officials meeting		
Officials Meeting date	Action	Due date
25 March 2024	Penlink Officials to provide clear timeframes and additional detail on what decisions are needed when.	§ 9(2)(f)(iv)

Project: Other revenue policy	
§ 9(2)(f)(iv)	§ 9(2)(f)(iv)

15 April 2024 - Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport

Project: Tolling	
Out of Scope	
Tolling proposals NZTA is continuing to progress advice to you on options to minimise the cost to toll Penlink. In addition, NZTA is preparing a briefing for you that sets out broader work underway to investigate other initiatives to reduce administration costs and economies of scale for toll roads.	
§ 9(2)(f)(iv)	§ 9(2)(f)(iv)

6 May 2024 - Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport

Project: Tolling	
Tolling reform	
Out of Scope	
NZTA is expecting to provide you with initial advice on cost efficiencies opportunities for the Penlink tolling scheme in the week beginning 13 May 2024.	

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Extract from Tier 2 Briefing List and 100 Day Action Tables – 28 November 2023

Category 3 - Other actions or decisions – these actions are discretionary. While it would be useful to progress them, they are lower priority and can be temporarily deferred to allow more urgent matters to progress.

Action	Description and reason for timing	Timing	Category e.g. Legislation and rules, Governance, International issues and approaches, other	Priority
Tolling Penlink	<p>In March 2023 Cabinet agreed that the Minister recommend to the Governor-General that an Order in Council be made allowing the new Penlink road to be tolled, and invited the Minister to issue drafting instructions to PCO to develop the Order in Council. We have not yet issued drafting instructions to PCO, given construction work is only in very early stages.</p> <p>Minister Brown has signalled a review of the Penlink tolling decision and potentially reconfiguring this. We can provide Minister Brown with an options analysis to support his decision. The Minister can decide whether to progress the tolling order as agreed by Cabinet, make adjustments to it, or redo the tolling order if the form of the road is amended.</p>	At discretion of Minister	Order in Council	Low

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28 March 2024

OC240283

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport

NEW ZEALAND INITIATIVE CONFERENCE SPEECH 2024

Snapshot

You are attending a conference held by the New Zealand Initiative on Thursday 4 April 2024.

You have agreed to provide a 10–15-minute speech at the conference that will highlight key challenges and issues associated with the need for new infrastructure, the introduction of road user charges (RUC) for all vehicles, and the ongoing electrification of the vehicle fleet.

Following the speech, there will be a 30-minute Q&A session. This will be shared with a co-presenter.

Time and date	10:30-11:30 am, Thursday 4 April	
Venue	Millhouse Conference Centre (MCC) Millbrook Resort, 1124 Malaghans Road, Arrowtown 0800 800 604	
Attendees	Oliver Hartwich, Executive Director, New Zealand Initiative Neeraj Lala, CEO, Toyota New Zealand	
Officials attending	N/A	
Agenda		
Talking points	Annex 1	
Contacts		
Name	Telephone	First contact
Matt Skinner, Manager, Revenue, Ministry of Transport	s 9(2)(a)	✓

New Zealand Initiative Conference Speech 2024

Key points

Out of Scope

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Out of Scope

Transport revenue system reform

Out of Scope

- 9 The Initiative has an interest in more use of tolling. The main current constraint is the high operating costs, which comprise more than 30 percent of the total revenue collected from current toll roads. You have asked the Ministry to review tolling settings to reduce cost, which could enable tolling to be used more generally. NZTA is exploring options to make tolling for Penlink more cost effective, including reviewing the costs of overhead gantries and costs of operating the back office, and will report back soon.

Out of Scope