

OC2240909

30 August 2024

Tēnā koe 

I refer to your email dated 2 August 2024, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *Any correspondence sent this year between the minister and/or his office and the Ministry of Transport around how the ministry should work with Auckland Transport on its congestion charging plans.*
2. *Any correspondence sent this year between the minister and/or his office and Ministry of Transport executives around how the ministry should work with Auckland Transport on its congestion charging plans.*
3. *Any briefings sent by the Ministry of Transport this year to the minister and/or his office around Auckland Transport and its plans for congestion charging.”*

Four documents fall within the scope of your request, and these are listed in the document schedule attached as Annex 1. The schedule outlines how the documents you requested have been treated under the Act. Certain information is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons

9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Skinner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matt Skinner
Manager Revenue

Annex 1: Document Schedule

Doc #	Document title	Treatment under the Act
1	Land Transport Revenue Action Plan - Time of Use Charging - Cabinet Paper	Refused 18(d) – a proactive release containing this document can be accessed at this url: https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Time-of-Use-Charging-Cabinet-Material-Proactive-Release.pdf
2	OC240094 Time of use charging amendments - Briefing	Information in scope is released in full except for staff phone numbers which are withheld under 9(2)(a).
3	Email: Mayor/Minister – points of agreement	Information in scope is released in full except for staff phone numbers and email addresses which are withheld under 9(2)(a) and certain information is withheld under 9(2)(g)(i).
4	Ministry of Transport Weekly report 15 July 2024	Information in scope is released in full.



15 March 2024

OC240094

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport

Action required by:
Friday, 22 March 2024

TIME OF USE CHARGING BILL AMENDMENTS

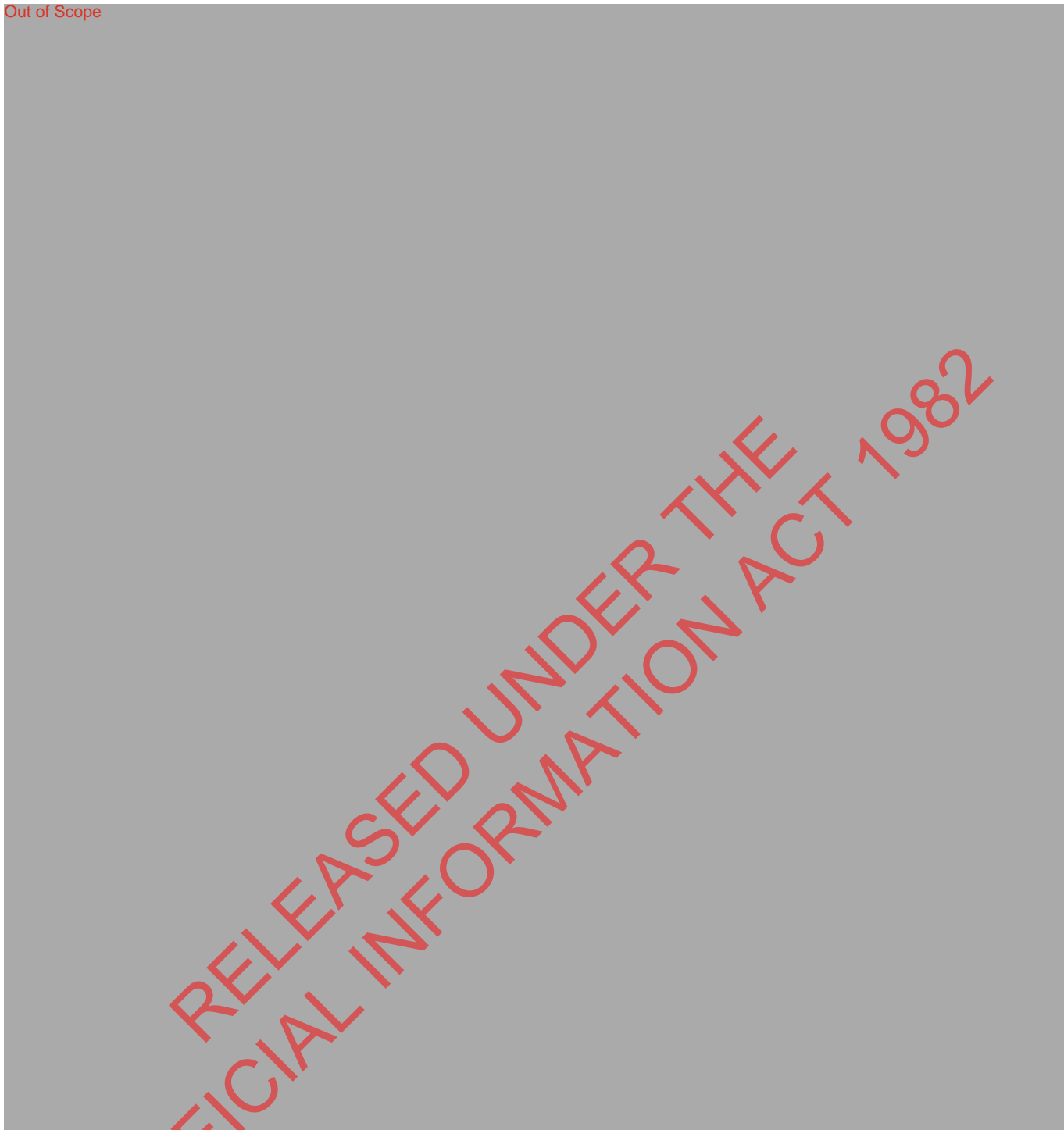
Purpose

To agree your amendments to the time of use charging legislation (the Bill)¹ and the associated stakeholder engagement.

Out of Scope

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Out of Scope



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4 **direct** officials to engage with key stakeholders, including Auckland Council, Auckland Transport, ^{Out of Scope} [redacted] Yes / No

David Wood
DCE, Investment & Monitoring

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport

..... / /

- Minister's office to complete:**
- Approved
 - Declined
 - Seen by Minister
 - Not seen by Minister
 - Overtaken by events

Comments

Contacts

Name	Telephone	First contact
David Wood, DCE, Investment & Monitoring	s 9(2)(a)	
Matt Skinner, Manager, Revenue		✓
Greg Mossong, Principal Adviser, Revenue		

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TIME OF USE CHARGING BILL AMENDMENTS

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Impact on the time of use charging scheme outlined by Mayor Brown

- 15 The combined effect of these amendments on a motorway charging scheme like that outlined by Mayor Brown before Christmas² would be to link charges to network-wide service level improvement, broaden the range of activities that could be funded (without linking revenue to specific projects), and increase NZTA input to the scheme.
- 16 Scheme design and charge extensions would be more challenging for Auckland Council than under the current Bill. However, with the revised approach, we would expect any scheme put to Ministers to be more focused on network productivity, clearer about the benefits to users, do a better job of identifying distributional impacts, and be better integrated with existing planning and funding.

We proposed to engage with key local authorities

- 17 We have only so far engaged with other government departments in developing the current Bill, and we are yet to share it with Auckland Council or any other local authorities. Feedback on the Bill from departments, particularly DIA, highlights that there are challenges in a framework that aims to work across a diverse set of road providers.
- 18 Engagement with key local authorities on the emerging design may reveal ways of improving the design ahead of seeking Cabinet decisions. It would be particularly useful to understand what Auckland Council have in mind in terms of their proposed scheme and get a sense of how feasible schemes would be outside Auckland.
- 19 We anticipate that engagement will involve relatively intensive sessions taking stakeholders through the proposed policy design and providing them with an opportunity to suggest high-level improvements.

Next steps

- 20 Once you have confirmed the amendments to the draft Bill, and the extent of the engagement to be undertaken, we will prepare a draft Cabinet paper seeking agreement to the proposed policy. That draft Cabinet paper will be informed by any engagement that you authorise.

² <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/502539/businesses-back-congestion-charges-to-ease-auckland-traffic-woes>

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From: Matthew Skinner
Sent: Monday, 29 April 2024 11:59 am
To: Dominic Cowell-Smith
Cc: Greg Mossong; Paul O'Connell; David Wood; Karen Lyons
Subject: Mayor/Minister meeting - points of agreement

Hi Dom,

Out of Scope

One point to flag — the final bullet point notes that we will work with Auckland post Cabinet agreement (i.e. while it is with PCO for drafting), which is what the Minister noted he is comfortable with (after the meeting rather than during it), but AT was still hopeful they might be engaged prior to initial Cabinet agreement.

Out of Scope

Thanks,
Matt

Time of use charging – points of agreement

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Next steps

- Minister is comfortable with officials engaging with Auckland Council and Transport once it has been through Cabinet, which should be in the coming weeks.
- Auckland will have further opportunity as part of the legislative design ^{s 9(2)(g)(i)} [redacted] and select committee process to ensure that the legislation meets its requirements.

Matt Skinner

Kaiwhakahaere | Manager

Te Rōpu Whakarite Pūtea | Revenue

Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport

^{s 9(2)(a)} [redacted]

transport.govt.nz



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Revenue

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Engagement with local authorities

We are also planning/proposing to engage at an officials level with interested local authorities and stakeholders to explain the policy design, soon after your announcement.

We are preparing a communication plan and slides to explain the policy design to interested local authorities, relevant stakeholders and consultants likely to be assisting councils in scheme development. We will provide a copy of this draft material to your Office in advance.

Please confirm that you are comfortable with officials engaging with key parties to ensure they are well informed about your policy intent.

Yes/No

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