

23 August 2023

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-6082

Sam Burns

By email: fyi-request-23595-5a89de53@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Sam

Request for information 2023-199

I refer to your two requests for information both dated 26 July 2023, which were received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 26 July 2023. One request was made directly to Greater Wellington, whereas the other was transferred to us by KiwiRail as the request relates to the information we have. You have requested the following:

"I write to request any information you hold regarding the currently in progress upgrade of Awarua Street Station's rain shelter. The upgrade began some time ago and has very slowly progressed. It is still fenced off.

This could include emails regarding scheduling of the work and progression of that schedule.

I believe this may be part of a wider upgrade of the Johnsonville Line stations; I am primarily interested in Awarua Street, less so any other station."

Greater Wellington's response follows:

Buildings on train stations across the Wellington network are managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council/Metlink. We provide up to date information to customers about station upgrades on our website <https://www.metlink.org.nz/news-and-updates/news/train-station-upgrades/>.

Background:

The Awarua Street platform cannot be accessed by vehicle from the street, so moving earthwork and plant equipment onto the platform relies on using the rail line itself (via a 'high rail' system). As such, the contractor has been forced to plan machinery works around periods when trains were not operating on the Johnsonville Line (otherwise known as a BOL, or Block of Line) for the demolition of existing concrete walls, and installation of a new concrete strip. The Easter BOL presented the best opportunity to do this demolition and strengthening work.

Progression of the project:

The upgrade of the Awarua Street Station building has been phased as follows:

Design:

- Design works by both architects and engineers, initially within an 8-week timeframe, which was revised to 14 weeks.
- Design consultants were in-briefed over the period December 2022 to January 2023, and commenced design works from late January 2023.
- We originally intended to deliver a completed design by the end of April 2023. However, the initial drawings of the building were inaccurate, and not reflective of the foundation conditions under the platform surface. This meant an engineer and architect rework was required to amend the means of strengthening the building and utilising the footprint. This caused a delay of 6 weeks, and the final design was delivered in mid-June 2023.

Stage One – Demolition/Shoring:

- This involved an immediate demolition and temporary strengthening of the building, to ensure that it is not an earthquake risk. The estimated time frame was one week.
- This occurred over the Easter BOL as planned – please refer to **Attachment 1** which contains an email regarding this work and some photos of the work being undertaken.

We have withheld information in the correspondence under section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

We have considered whether the public interest in the requested information outweighs Greater Wellington’s need to withhold certain aspects of the requested information. As a result, we do not consider that the public interest outweighs Greater Wellington’s reason for withholding parts of the document under the ground identified above.

- The existing concrete wing walls were demolished and asphalted over, while the front of the roof structure was supported with props and scaffolding to make the building safe to use.
- In the intervening period following Stage One, the shelter was left as shown in **Attachment 2**. This enabled use of the shelter by customers, as well as seating along the rear of the building, while the design for the build itself was finalised.

Stage Two – Construction:

- This involves permanent strengthening and cosmetic upgrade to the shelter within an estimated 8-week timeframe.

- This stage was originally planned to occur from mid-May 2023; however, this was revised to early July 2023 following the later delivery of a final design.
- Preparatory works to enable the main construction phase, particularly the laying of concrete and fabrication of structural steel, have been hampered by poor weather and contractor illness. This caused a further delay of approximately 2 weeks.
- The contractor revised their chart. Please refer to **Attachment 3** which contains a copy of the project programme. The attachment reflects the works on site currently planned out to the end of August.

In summary, the project was originally intended for completion at the end of June 2023, with delays due to redesign, weather and contractor illness causing 8 weeks of delay.

Correspondence:

We have refused this part of your request under section 17(f) on the basis that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. An initial search regarding this subject returned 2,086 items. We have provided you with a subset of information for this request by refining the scope of the search using the key words "*Awarua Street station shelter replacement.*"

Please refer to **Attachment 4** for the relevant correspondence from this search relating to the Awarua Street station shelter replacement from within the last 6 months.

We have withheld information in the correspondence under section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

We have considered whether the public interest in the requested information outweighs Greater Wellington's need to withhold certain aspects of the requested information. As a result, we do not consider that the public interest outweighs Greater Wellington's reason for withholding parts of the document under the ground identified above.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'sugan' with a dash at the end.

Samantha Gain

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Waka-a-atea | Group Manager Metlink