

23 JAN 2015

Reference: CER/1036

Paul Sutherland  
fyi-request-2114-c578cd17@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Paul

**Re: Request under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received on 20 October 2014. You requested the following information in relation to Victoria Square:

*"In the media recently it was reported that "CCDU had consulted inner-city residents' groups as well as several agencies including the city council, Christchurch Civic Trust and Heritage New Zealand"*

*{<http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/business...>}*

*May I have a copy of the consultation documents, and the responses that were returned to CCDU".*

Firstly, I apologise for the delay in my response. As you are aware, there was an internal communication error that led to your request submitted on 20 October not being actioned. I have asked my staff to review our internal processes to ensure that this error does not occur again. Once the error had been identified, priority was accorded to your request. I understand my staff advised you of this in an email on 4 December 2014, and provided you with a further update on the status of your request on 6 January 2015.

Although consultation with the general public is out of the scope of your request, it is important to note that the public had significant opportunities to provide comment before the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan was released in July 2012. The history of the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan is detailed on the Christchurch Central Development Unit's website at <http://ccdu.govt.nz/plan/the-plans-history>. The history includes the Plan's inception as a result of the Christchurch City Council's 'Share an Idea' campaign, which generated 106,000 ideas for the redevelopment of the inner city. These ideas fed into the development of the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan, as they demonstrated what the people of greater Christchurch wished to see in the central city. As part of this, Victoria Square was identified as an opportunity to recognise and consider character and culture design opportunities.

The future design of Victoria Square forms part of the Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct anchor project, and is not an anchor project in its own right. Because of its potential to catalyse recovery activity in the central city, the Avon River Precinct is one of four priority anchor projects. As part of this project, some changes to Victoria Square are necessary to address the significant logistical challenges of holding civic events and to integrate the Ngāi

Tūāhuriri history of the area. The improvements in Victoria Square will restore the Bowker Fountain and create a more integrated river precinct. The proposed design broadens the cultural landscape and heritage references, provides additional lighting and increases seating opportunities, improves spaces for communities and provides better links to the proposed river promenade.

Aside from high-level input through Share an Idea, engagement with stakeholders on the Precinct, including the proposed changes to Victoria Square, has occurred, primarily in the form of meetings with individuals and stakeholder groups. These stakeholders have included the Inner City Residents' Group, the Christchurch Youth Council, Heritage New Zealand, and the Christchurch City Council. Where held in written form, the feedback that was gathered through this process is provided as part of this response.

As you may also be aware, the concept design for the Precinct, including the proposals for Victoria Square, is publicly available on the Christchurch Central Development Unit's website <http://ccdu.govt.nz/projects-and-precincts/te-papa-otakaro-avon-river-precinct>, and on brochures handed out at events like the Christchurch A&P Show in 2013, and the Ellerslie Flower Show in 2014. The design also features in the Future Christchurch Showcase in the Re:START mall.

I can also advise that before any plans for Victoria Square are finalised, wider community engagement will be undertaken. A plan for this engagement is currently being developed by CERA officials.

#### Information being released

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed in the below table, subject to some information being withheld as noted. The relevant grounds under which information has been withheld are:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people;
- section 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information;
- section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expressions of opinion.

Item	Date	Document Description		Withholding grounds
1.	16/09/2013	Minutes	Meeting with Christchurch (Otautahi) Youth Council	9(2)(a)
2.	20/09/2013	Minutes	Meeting with combined Inner City Resident's Groups and Christchurch Beautifying Association	9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i)
3.	25/09/2013	Minutes	Meeting with Spokes	9(2)(a)
4.	3/10/2013	Minutes	Meeting with Punting on the Avon	9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(ii)
5.	7/10/2013	Minutes	Meeting with NZ Historic Places Trust	9(2)(a)

6.	9/10/2013	Summary	Meetings with Stakeholders - Summary Post Concept Design	9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(ii)
7.	25/10/2013	Minutes	Meeting with Avon River Precinct land owners	9(2)(a)
8.	2/05/2014	Presentation	Te Papa Ōtākaro / Avon River Precinct Presentation to Christchurch Civic Trust	Released in full
9.	26/05/2014	Presentation	Te Papa Ōtākaro / Avon River Precinct Presentation to Christchurch City Council	Released in full
10.	16/06/2014	Presentation	Victoria Square presentation to Christchurch City Council	Released in full
11.	Various	Minutes	Stakeholder engagement records from CERA's Salesforce database	9(2)(a)

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the OIA.

Yours sincerely



John Ombler  
Acting Chief Executive