

OIA2023-27

Alex Daniels

Via FYI.Org

Dear Alex

I refer to your request dated 18 March 2023, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), asking:

*I wish to know the exact cost of the “Gifted” Māori names for both the new and existing railway stations in Auckland and the wider areas for the new city rail link including all meetings and discussions for the whole process of consultation thru to official announcements and naming including those with councils Auckland transport, kiwi rail, and all vested interest parties.*

Please be advised your request is declined under Section 18(e) of the Act. That is the information you requested does not exist.

To explain, there are two Auckland railway stations that are being renamed (Waitematā and Mangawhau).

The other stations are new City Rail Link/Southern stations and the naming of these is a standard process led by the New Zealand Geographic Board.

KiwiRail managed its input into the naming of the Southern Stations alongside Auckland Transport (AT) and Land Information New Zealand (LINZ). Members of the KiwiRail project team and associated representatives engaged with iwi throughout the project, not only on preparing the names to be submitted to LINZ, but also on cultural engagement, design development, and various environmental issues through management plans.

As naming of the stations is a small but core part of the project, this cost is not separated out. We can confirm no external consultants were employed or used for the naming process.

We cannot provide a specific number as hours spent are not attributed to each specific task and the engagement facilitated discussion about the entire project with iwi, of which naming was one agenda item.

However, the estimated time associated to identifying and submitting names is in the tens of thousands and is a low number relative to the \$495 million project value.

### **Future costs**

When discussing future costs, AT updates timetables, maps, AT Mobile, and the AT website, as part of its standard business operations.

From time to time, new routes are added or existing routes are changed, timetables also change over time.

Therefore, all AT assets need to be changed on an ongoing basis as part of its standard operational costs. The new station names will be incorporated into the maps as these assets are updated, as noted above these are new stations being added, so these maps would need to be updated to incorporate the new station names anyway once the CRL/Southern Stations are incorporated into the network.

Signage at Waitematā Station will need to be updated, and there will be an associate cost for the physical works. As yet AT does not have an estimated cost.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dave Allard', written in a cursive style.

Dave Allard  
**Senior Government Relations Advisor, KiwiRail**