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28 August 2023

April Hayes Dickson

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Tēnā koe Ms Dickson

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982 (OIA) – REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION - CHRISTCHURCH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED (CIAL)

1. We write further to our email of 2 August 2023, acknowledging receipt of your OIA request of 31 July 2023 seeking the following information (if held by CIAL) in relation to the proposed Central Otago airport project:

Request: Received 31 July – Conflicts of Interest - Central Otago Airport

Please provide any logged conflicts of interest with the project contractors and consultants on the Central Otago Airport project, broken down into number of conflicts with local government, businesses, non government entities and central government. For conflicts with local and national government entities please list the conflict and the mitigation in place.

2. CIAL is a council-controlled trading organisation that has been specifically established to operate and manage its business as an independent commercial undertaking for the purposes of making a profit, and to follow generally accepted commercial practices and disciplines. CIAL is not a public body collecting and spending public funds. It operates as a wholly commercial, standalone entity. Due to the size and scale of those activities it is one of only three major airports in New Zealand regulated under Part 4 of the Commerce Act.
3. All our purchasing and procurement activity is auditable, clear and transparent. Our employees must act in a fair and unbiased manner through the CIAL procurement process and part of this obligation is to be careful that their decision-making processes cannot be challenged based on actual or perceived bias, particularly in relation to conflicts of interest.
4. CIAL requires its employees to declare any personal interest which may affect, or could be perceived to affect, their impartiality in any aspect of their work. Declarations may then provide the basis for deciding the steps needed to manage any potential conflict of interest.

5. With respect to the information you have requested, we advise that on the Central Otago Airport project there has only been one instance where a potential conflict of interest has been identified between a member of the team and a supplier of services. We can confirm that CIAL's process was implemented and followed. We are unable to provide any further details of the matter pursuant to requirement to protect the privacy of natural persons pursuant to clause 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982.
6. We trust we have answered your requests for information. If you require any further information or we have in some way misinterpreted your requests, please let us know.
7. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decisions contained in this letter. Information about how to contact the Ombudsman or make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

CIAL LEGAL TEAM

Email: legal@cial.co.nz