

17 October 2024

LGOIMA No. 8140014634  
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Will

By Email: [fyi-request-28504-7399bb2e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-28504-7399bb2e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Will

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**Local Government Official Information And Meetings Act 1987**

**Milford Beach steps**

Thank you for your information request dated 24 September 2024, regarding the Milford Beach Steps. The specific details of your request and our response is below.

**As Mayor Wayne Brown has expressed his outrage at the expense of these steps on the Milford beach, I would like some information on the project please,**

**1. Who was the successful contractor**

Fort Projects Limited

**2. What other contractors (if any) submitted costs or were invited to, and what were the other options**

We are unable to provide the names of other contractors, as disclosing this information would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it or is the subject of the information. Accordingly, this information is withheld under section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

In considering the alternative options for the renewal of the stair accessways, a number of alternatives were considered:

- Do Nothing
- Demolition and removal only
- Replacement with timber stairs
- Beach assess ramp(s)
- Encapsulate the existing stairs with concrete (to avoid demolition)
- Renewal of two sets of stairs instead of four
- Renewal of four sets of stairs (like for like replacement)

**3. Who was on the project team that approved said project**

The professional services for the project were approved by the Project Delivery Manager in March 2022. The contract for the physical works was awarded in March 2023 under the delegation of the Head of Engineering and Resilience.

#### 4. Why no handrail?

Four individual sets of stairs were designed and constructed through this project across a ~500m extent of the Milford walkway (Milford Trunk Sewer). The design considered the New Zealand Building Code and the New Zealand Handbook for Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures (Standards New Zealand, SNZ HB 8630:2004). The appropriateness of a grab rail in various environments is considered in the latter standard.

Grab rails were subsequently installed on the two sets of stairs landing on the beach to support easy walking access for all ages and most fitness levels. The rails also allow for fluctuating sand levels at these locations. Grab rails were not installed on the two sets of stairs of lower total height, which land on the rock platform. This reflects the static basalt rock platform these steps are founded into, meaning there is no fluctuation in the level of interface between the steps and the foreshore. This consideration is referenced in the Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures Handbook.

Decisions regarding the information being released to you were made by **Paul Klinac**, General Manager Engineering Assets and Technical Advisory.

Should you believe Auckland Council has not responded appropriately to your request you have the right to seek a review of the decision from the Ombudsman.

I hope you find this information useful. If you have any further queries please contact me on 09 301 0101, quoting LGOIMA No. 8140014634.

Ngā mihi



Jenny Hua  
Senior Privacy & Official Information Business Partner  
**Customer Experience & Digital Services**