

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport
Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



Andrew Riddell
fyi-request-29100-49825681@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Andrew

Thank you for your email of 7 November 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982:

You very recently announced certain roading works in Wellington, including second Mt Victoria and Terrace tunnels, parallel to existing ones, extending the Arras Tunnel under the Pukeahu National War Memorial, and road changes around the Basin Reserve. The announcement included the intention to commence construction in 2026.

Please provide copies of all correspondence, briefings and reports you have received on these works since 1 July this year, including any benefit-cost analysis.

The documents I received between 1 July and 7 November 2024, and my decision in relation to each, are listed in the document schedule appended to this letter. I have interpreted your request for correspondence to include formal correspondence received by my office.

Certain information from documents 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(ba)(ii) to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest
- 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
- 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.

I am withholding document 8 in full under sections 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, and document 9 under sections 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(j) of the Act to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

I am also refusing the release of document 6 under section 18(d) of the Act as it will soon be made publicly available on the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) website in the coming weeks at: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act/proactive-releases/>

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Lastly, I did not receive any briefings regarding the project between 1 July and 7 November 2024. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold some information and refuse parts of your request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simeon Brown', written in a cursive style.

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport

Document schedule

Document number	Title / Date	Description
1	Email of 8 October 2024	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a).
2	Email of 17 October 2024	
3	Email of 7 November 2024	
4	Email of 13 November 2024	
5	Extract from MIN-4556, MINO-1141 and MIN-4573 (5 July, 31 July and 14 August 2024)	Released in full.
6	MIN-4610 SH1 Wellington RoNS Programme Update, 28 August 2024	Refused under section 18(d) as soon to be publicly available.
7	MIN-4667 SH1 Wellington Improvements, 10 October 2024	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(ba)(ii), 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i).
8	MINO-1188 Wellington City RoNS options – [Withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)], 30 September 2024	Withheld in full under sections 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i)
9	MINO-1207 [Withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)], 15 October 2024	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(j)