

# Hon Simeon Brown

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



OIA24-469

P Robins

[fyi-request-29135-8a583cbe@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-29135-8a583cbe@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear P Robins

I refer to your email dated 10 November 2024, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“All communications and briefings in any form received by you related to Sounds Air and its Wellington and Taupō route.”*

The information to be released includes two excerpts from two separate briefings. The briefings are on substantively different topics, so I am releasing the relevant paragraphs only.

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 that reads "Simeon Brown".

Hon Simeon Brown  
**Minister of Transport**

## Annex 1: Document Schedule

Title of Document and excerpts	
OC240559 - Meeting with Sounds Air 7 June 2024	
17	Sounds Air has considered pulling out of its Taupō to Wellington and Westport to Wellington routes due to their non-viability. Due to the impact of this on smaller airports and communities, particularly Westport, the airline has maintained these routes by increasing fares to keep them viable.
OC240145 - Crown-Council Joint Venture Airports 14 March 2024	
22	Sounds Air has actively been considering its options with respect to its scheduled services to Westport and Taupō. We understand that the airline has decided to raise fares to restore these routes to profitability. Sounds Air is the only scheduled passenger service out of Westport.