

16 November 2015

File Ref: OIAP-7-595

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Dear Mr Randle

Request for information 2015/096

I refer to your request for information dated 22 October 2015, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council on 22 October 2015. You have requested the following information:

“A) Can I please have a copy of any and all information held about any changes to the operating costs for the Johnsonville Line to support the new timetable?”

B) Can I please have a copy of any and all information held about any changes to the capital costs for the Johnsonville Line to support the new timetable?”

C) Can I please have a copy of any and all information held about any changes to the costs of providing additional Maitangi trains for the Johnsonville Line to support the new timetable?”

D) Can I please have a copy of any and all information held about any estimates on the predicted changes to patronage on the Johnsonville Line as a result of the new timetable?”

Greater Wellington Regional Council’s response follows:

Question A

A cost summary for implementing the new Johnsonville timetable is attached to this letter. The information on salary costs and per kilometre charges are redacted due to its commercial sensitivity. This part of your request has therefore been withheld in accordance with sections 7(2)(b)(ii) and 7(2)(i) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (The Act), on the grounds that release of the information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information and that withholding is necessary to enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations. This is on the basis that operational costs in the financial year 2015/16 are still being negotiated, and Greater Wellington Regional Council is currently managing a competitive tender process for the procurement of rail services under the Public Transport Operating Model (PTOM).



We have considered whether the public interest in the requested information outweighs Greater Wellington Regional Council's need to withhold certain aspects of the requested information. As a result, we do not consider that the public interest outweighs Greater Wellington Regional Council's reason for withholding parts of the document under the grounds identified above.

Question B

There are no capital costs associated with the new Johnsonville timetable. This part of your request has therefore been refused in accordance with section 17(e) of the Act on the ground that the requested information does not exist.

Question C

The attached cost summary document also provides details of the additional train maintenance and electricity costs associated with the new Johnsonville timetable. These costs will be managed within existing budgets and are expected to be at least partially offset by an increase in patronage.

Question D

The new Johnsonville timetable is the first stage of the introduction of the Rail Scenario 1 (RS1) service upgrades as prescribed by the Wellington Regional Rail Plan (which is part of the Regional Public Transport Plan). Specific patronage estimates on the Johnsonville Line as a result of the timetable changes have not been undertaken. Therefore, this part of your request is being refused in accordance with section 17(e) of the Act on the ground that the requested information does not exist.

For information about the impacts and benefits of the service upgrades please refer to the Wellington Regional Rail Plan, which is available at the following link:

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Transport/Public-transport/Train-docs/WellingtonRegionalRailPlan2010-2035.pdf>

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Luke Troy
General Manager
Strategy