

7 November 2017

Ref OIA-3284

Bob Johnston
fyi-request-6662-d31948ff@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Bob

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 9 October 2017 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982:

... how much alcohol the Agency has purchased each month for the last 12 months up to and including August 2017. Please include alcohol purchased on account by the Agency or by way of invoices issued to the Agency and also any and all alcohol purchased on credit cards issued to Agency staff. For purchases on credit cards please include for each credit card used to purchase alcohol, the position title and position level of the cardholder within the organisation ie CE, or the various tiers below the CE, who approved the purchase (position title and level). For all purchases please include details of the reason for the purchases and how this accords with any policy the Agency has in the purchase of alcohol with Agency funds.

The NZ Transport Agency does not have a separate general ledger code for alcohol purchases. Purchases of alcohol would be encompassed as part of other codes including domestic and overseas accommodation and meals, and various catering codes. Accordingly the information you have requested does not exist. The Transport Agency is unable to provide the information and as such is refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information requested is not held by the Transport Agency and has no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department.

For completeness, the Transport Agency has guidelines that relate to spending on alcohol, including for staff travelling:

In general, expenditure for beer, wine or other alcohol is deemed personal expenditure while on official travel. However, if you wish to consume alcohol with an evening meal, the Transport Agency will reimburse a reasonable cost. For guidance, one glass of alcohol is considered reasonable. Any alcohol consumption should be modest. Consumption of any in-room mini-bar items is considered personal expenditure. Costs should not be charged to the Transport Agency and will not be reimbursed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Lyn Miller, Acting Manager, Financial Processing, by email to lyn.miller@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (04) 894 5422.

Under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, you have the right to apply to an Ombudsman for an investigation and review of the decision to refuse your request. The address is:

Office of the Ombudsmen
PO Box 10152
Wellington

or <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/>.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Buckner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fiona Buckner
Senior Manager, Financial Operations