NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
WAKA KOTAHI

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11 March 2026

Kasey McDonnell
kasey@threesixtysix.news

REF: OIA-21166

Dear Kasey

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 17 February 2026 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

> *1. Total annual expenditure on maintenance, renewal, and repair of the Wellington Urban Motorway (from Ngauranga interchange to Vivian Street) for each financial year from 2014/15 to 2024/25 inclusive.*
>
> *2. Please provide this broken down by category of work (e.g. routine maintenance, pavement rehabilitation, structural maintenance, drainage, lighting, safety barrier repair/replacement, seismic strengthening).*
>
> *3. Any expenditure on emergency or unplanned repair works on this corridor over the same period, identified separately if not captured above.*
>
> *4. Annual operational expenditure for the corridor over the same period, including but not limited to tunnel operations (ventilation, lighting, fire systems), traffic management systems, CCTV and monitoring, and incident response.*

I am refusing your request under section 18(e) as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) does not hold expenditure information at the corridor level requested for the full period specified. Maintenance and operations expenditure is recorded at a network level, rather than for individual motorway sections.

A financial breakdown by activity for the Wellington network, which represents the best available information relevant to your request is attached.

The following document is enclosed:

- Attachment 1: Wellington Network Maintenance and Operations Expenditure by Activity and financial year from 2014/15 to 2024/25.

Please note the following caveats for the above attachment:

- The following data is for activity captured under State Highway Maintenance funding.
- Bridge and Structure Renewals are excluded as they are captured under State Highway Improvements funding.

Over the past ten years, maintenance and operations costs on the Wellington state highway network (and nationally) have increased significantly, reflecting structural changes in the network, demand, and the cost environment. The network itself has expanded through major new infrastructure investments, such as the Kapiti Expressway and other urban motorway upgrades which mean more pavement lane kilometres, structures, drainage, ITS and safety assets that must now be maintained to a high standard. At the same time, traffic volumes and the average weight of vehicles using the network have increased, accelerating pavement wear, structural fatigue, and the frequency of renewals, particularly on heavily trafficked urban corridors.

The spend profile also reflects the higher input costs for bitumen, steel, concrete, labour, traffic management and specialist services, which has materially increased the unit cost of maintenance and renewal activities. In Wellington specifically, over the funding period, there has also been an uplift in enhanced network operations, incident response capability, and proactive traffic management (such as traffic response units and operational traffic management), to support safety, resilience and reliability in a constrained urban environment. This is reflected in the expenditure profile, which shows strong growth in network operations, asset management, and renewals over time, alongside higher pavement, structures and environmental maintenance costs.

More information about our state highway maintenance work can be found on our website. This includes regional information, including for Wellington.

- https://nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh-maintenance-programme
- https://nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh-maintenance-programme/wellington-transport-alliance

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

In line with NZTA policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA), please contact Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Jackie Smith
Manager, Ministerial Services