

28 April 2026

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

I write in response to your request dated 18 November 2025, for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Copies of all correspondence to or from Kāinga Ora and HUD, Treasury, NZTA, or Hutt City Council relating to the proposed changes to the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund agreement that would allow the reallocation of stormwater project savings to the Melling bridge.

Copies of all advice, briefings, reports, emails, memos, or internal analysis produced by Kāinga Ora regarding whether the Melling bridge qualifies as infrastructure enabling housing.

Copies of all advice, briefings, reports, emails, memos, or internal analysis produced by Kāinga Ora regarding the implications of transferring funding away from the stormwater project.

Copies of all advice, briefings, reports, emails, memos, or internal analysis produced by Kāinga Ora identifying or discussing any risks, concerns, or issues raised internally or externally about the proposed IAF amendment or the Melling bridge funding transfer.

Copies of all emails, memos, notes, or other records related to Hutt City Council's proposal to swap IAF funds to cover the funding gap caused by the 2024 Government Policy Statement on Land Transport.

Copies of all communications between Kāinga Ora and Ministers or their offices regarding the proposed IAF amendment and the funding of the Melling bridge.

I would first like to apologise for the length of time it has taken to provide you with a response to your request.

I am providing the relevant correspondence, advice, briefings, reports, memos and internal analysis as attachments. A summary of the information provided in Appendix A.

For two documents, excerpts are provided in accordance with Section 16 of the Act.

Some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

Section of Act	Reason
9(2)(a)	To protect the privacy of natural persons.
9(2)(b)(ii)	Would likely prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

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 employees of the Ministry.
18(d)	That the information is already publicly available or soon will be

I am refusing three documents in full. The Kāinga Ora status reports are refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the grounds that the information will soon be publicly available on the Kāinga Ora website. I am also withholding the Approval Briefing/Variation Agreement in full under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act.

I also refer you the following published information:

- The response dated 29 August 2025 to your OIA request of 1 August 2025, published at: <https://www.kaingaora.govt.nz/assets/Publications/OIAs-Official-Information-Requests/August-2025/29-August-2025-Riverlink-Development.pdf?v=7191205ea6ec2b4458ab794c03d8add13c29bdda>.
- The Treasury OIA response, dated 16 December 2025 published at: <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2026-01/oia-20250809.pdf>

In considering your request, Kāinga Ora also assessed whether the public interest in releasing the withheld information outweighed the need to withhold it. While there is clear public interest in transparency regarding the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund, and the funding of the Melling bridge, we determined that in this instance the public interest is met through the release of the substantive material provided with this response, together with the information already publicly available.

Please note that while we have provided the key information identified through a search of Kāinga Ora's systems, responsibility for the IAF function has since transferred to another agency. As a result, the search was undertaken on a best-efforts basis, and there is a possibility that some relevant material may not have been located.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. There is information about how to make a complaint at <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz> or by freephone on [0800 802 602](tel:0800802602).

Please note that Kāinga Ora proactively releases some responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request may be published at <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/publications/official-information-requests/>, with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Nick Howcroft
General Manager – Urban Development and Delivery

Appendix A: Document schedule

Documents released

Page number	Date	Document	Section of the Act applied
1	September 2024	Kāinga Ora Infrastructure Acceleration Fund Quarterly Report Q1 FY25, pg. 6, 29 GSR-24- 10836	N/A
2-3	June 2025	Kāinga Ora Infrastructure Acceleration Fund Handover Report, pg. 72, 73	N/A
4-5	10 March 2025	Email KO staff – HUD [and reply], RE Hutt City RiverLink and Valley Floor IAF Variation Queries	9(2)(a)
6	10 March 2025	Email KO staff – HUD, RE Hutt City RiverLink and Valley Floor IAF Variation Queries	9(2)(a)
7-8	7 March 2025	Email C Tasker – KO staff, RE Hutt City RiverLink and Valley Floor IAF Variation Queries	9(2)(a)
9	7 March 2025	Email C Tasker - KO staff, RE Hutt City RiverLink and Valley Floor IAF Variation Queries	9(2)(a)
9	6 March 2025	Email KO staff - C Tasker, RE Hutt City RiverLink and Valley Floor IAF Variation Queries	9(2)(a)
10-11	4 March 2025	Email KO staff - C Tasker, RE Hutt City RiverLink and Valley Floor IAF Variation Queries	9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii)
11-13	26 February 2025	Email C Tasker - KO staff, RE Hutt City RiverLink and Valley Floor IAF Variation Queries	9(2)(a)
13-15	21 February 2025	Email KO staff - C Tasker, RE Hutt City RiverLink and Valley Floor IAF Variation Queries	9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii)
15-16	20 February 2025	Email C Tasker - KO staff, RE Hutt City RiverLink and Valley Floor IAF Variation Queries	9(2)(a)
17	10 February 2025	Email KO staff - C Tasker, IAF - Q2 FY25 Quarterly Report	9(2)(a)
18-19	5 December 2025	Email KO staff - C Tasker, FW: FYI: Kainga Ora - Homes and Communities Memo - IAF Q1 FY25 Quarterly Report	9(2)(a)
19-20	27 November 2024	Email Kainga Ora GS - MO, Kainga Ora - Homes and Communities Memo - IAF Q1 FY25 Quarterly Report	9(2)(a)
21	11 March 2025	Email KO staff - TSY staff, 2025 02 05 – Hutt City Council – Riverlink and Vally Floor IAF- HUD's comments doc	9(2)(a)

Page number	Date	Document	Section of the Act applied
21-22	11 March 2025	Email TSY staff - KO staff, 2025 02 05 – Hutt City Council – Riverlink and Vally Floor IAF- HUD's comments doc	9(2)(a)
22	11 March 2025	Email KO staff - TSY staff, 2025 02 05 – Hutt City Council – Riverlink and Vally Floor IAF- HUD's comments doc	9(2)(a)
22-23	11 March 2025	Email TSY staff - KO staff, 2025 02 05 – Hutt City Council – Riverlink and Vally Floor IAF- HUD's comments doc	9(2)(a)
23	11 March 2025	Email KO staff – C Tasker, 2025 02 05 – Hutt City Council – Riverlink and Vally Floor IAF- HUD's comments doc	9(2)(a)
23-25	11 March 2025	Email C Tasker - KO staff, 2025 02 05 – Hutt City Council – Riverlink and Vally Floor IAF- HUD's comments doc	9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)
26-27	2 October 2024	Email KO staff – NZTA, IAF and Riverlink	9(2)(a)
28	31 October 2024	Email KO staff – HCC, RE: IAF – RiverLink Variation Request Form	9(2)(a)
28	1 November 2024	Email HCC – KO staff, RE: IAF – RiverLink Variation Request Form	9(2)(a)
29	30 September 2024	Email KO staff – HCC/EID Consultancy, IAF – RiverLink Variation Request Form	9(2)(a)
31-33	16 December 2024	Email KO staff – HCC/EID Consultancy [series of emails], RE: IAF Stage 2 Delivery Plan	9(2)(a)
34-53	4 February 2025	Email HCC – KO staff, FW: Scope Amendment: Infrastructure Acceleration Fund – Stormwater Projects	9(2)(a)
54-55	3 March 2025	Email HCC – KO staff [and forwarded], FW: RE: IAF – City Link Bridge Variation (HCC response)	9(2)(a)
56-57	27 February 2025	Email KO staff – HCC [and reply], RE: IAF – City Link Bridge Variation	9(2)(a)
58	13 March 2025	Email HCC – KO staff, RE: RE: IAF - City Link Bridge Variation (HCC response)	9(2)(a)
58-59	11 March 2025	Email KO staff – HCC, RE: RE: IAF - City Link Bridge Variation (HCC response)	9(2)(a)
60-71	29 September 2024	KO staff – HCC/EID Consultancy, IAF – RiverLink Variation Request Form	9(2)(a)

Documents withheld or refused in full

Date	Document	Section of the Act applied
28 February - 14 March 2025	Status Report, pg. 5 GSR-25-18732	18(d)
March 2025	Approval Briefing/Variation Agreement kaingaora.govt.nz/assets/Publications/OIAs-Official-Information-Requests/August-2025/29-August-2025-Riverlink-Development.pdf	18(d)
1 - 15 August 2025	Status Report, pg. 6, 7 GSR-25-19310	18(d)
15 - 22 August 2025	Status Report, pg. 6, GSR-25-19886	18(d)