

4 March 2025

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

I refer to your email regarding Consentium to Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, received on 3 February 2025. Although you have been provided with responses to most of your request, the following parts were interpreted under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *What are the average monthly operational costs of Consentium? (Covering salaries, rent for premises, resources, etc.)*
- *What was the total cost of setting up Consentium in 2020?*

I can advise you that for the current 2024/25 financial year to January 2025, the average monthly operational costs of Consentium were \$874,700 per month. This includes personnel, travel, motor vehicles and other general expenses. All costs are incurred by Consentium are fully recovered from projects it provides services for.

Regarding the second question, Consentium is the first nationally accredited building consent authority (BCA) in New Zealand not established under a Territorial Local Authority (council), and is an independent part of Kāinga Ora.

Indicative set up costs when establishing Consentium were estimated to be around \$5.6 million. This included costs relating to IT systems, equipment, and recruitment. However, the actual total costs were recorded in a manner that does not allow set up costs to be easily separated.

To attempt to calculate it would be a significant and time intensive exercise. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as, ‘...that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.’

More information about Consentium can be found here:

- <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/en/NZ/publications/core-publications/annual-report/>
- <https://consentium.co.nz/>
- <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/en/NZ/working-with-us/consentium-building-consent-authority/>.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available online at <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/> or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Please note that Kāinga Ora proactively releases our 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. McCrossan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anna McCrossan

**Director – National Building Consent Authority**