

9 May 2024

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email dated 13 March 2024 to Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

The Northern Advocate reported yesterday that Kainga Ora is administering the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund to contribute to a \$23 million roundabout project in Springs Flat, Whangarei. Under the Official Information Act, I request any communication to or from Kainga Ora employees or Kainga Ora representatives or Kainga Ora consultants:

- 1) *With any landowners who may benefit from the construction of the roundabout on State Highway 1 off the end of Springs Flat Road in Whangarei.*
- 2) *With any of the parties detailed on the attached list.*
- 3) *With valuers or valuation firms around the value of land which may benefit from the construction of the roundabout on State Highway 1 off the end of Springs Flat Road in Whangarei.*
- 4) *With valuers or valuation firms around the value of land detailed on the attached list.*
- 5) *About the possibility of Kainga Ora purchasing land or optioning land in the vicinity of Spring Flats Road, Whangarei.*
- 6) *About the possibility of purchasing land or option the land which is detailed in the attached list.*

For each document or piece of information that Kainga Ora chooses to withhold, please advise the provision in the Act and supporting reasons for the withholding.

On 14 March 2024 you further clarified that:

“any landowners”...should mean any additional landowners (not listed in the request) who may benefit from the roundabout. I imagine this would have taken the form of some local consultation or similar in the affected community.

Staff across Kāinga Ora have been consulted and I can advise you that following several searches, no communications with landowners, parties on the list provided, or valuers, were identified as being within scope of your request. I am therefore refusing your request in full under the following section of the Act:

- 18(g)(i) *‘...that the information requested is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is...held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority...’*

It is important to note that the IAF is administered by Kāinga Ora on behalf of the Crown and is focused on partnering with Whangārei District Council (WDC) to support the development of infrastructure in the area. While this enables housing, it is separate from the role of Kāinga Ora as a housing developer.

Neither Kāinga Ora nor the WDC have any plans to build houses in the new development, but as referred to in the Northern Advocate article, the WDC is committed to working with developers to ensure they pay their fair share of the costs.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information to make a complaint is available online at 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-request/> with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely



Caroline McDowall
General Manager Commercial