



Transport Accident Investigation Commission

Request No. 380

4 March 2024

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Decision on information request

I write in reply to your information request regarding:

1. *Any correspondence received by you between 1 December 2023 and today from your agency's responsible minister, the Minister of Finance, Treasury, or any other Minister or Agency regarding the fiscal sustainability programme, including any savings required by your agency.*
2. *Any letters of expectation or guidance from Te Kawa Mataaho received by you between 1 December 2023 and today regarding change management or employment relations.*

Fiscal sustainability programme and savings

TAIC has received correspondence between 1 December 2023 and 9 February 2024 from the Ministry of Transport, regarding the Fiscal Sustainability Programme, including savings required by TAIC. This correspondence includes the following emails and attachments:

- 18 January 2024, Fiscal Sustainability Programme – Info required by COB 19 January 2024, attachment: TAIC Programmes
- 19 January 2024, Fiscal Sustainability Programme – Info required by COB 19 January 2024
- 23 January 2024, Update on Budget 2024
- 23 January 2024, Commissioning the next phase of the Initial Baseline Exercise – TAIC, attachment: TAIC IBE Info Request
- 23 January 2024, Fiscal Sustainability Programme – Info required by cob 19 Jan 2024, attachment: Copy of 2024-01-23 TAIC – Programmes
- 25 January 2024, Commissioning the next phase of the Initial Baseline Exercise – TAIC, attachment: TAIC IBE Request 25 January
- 2 February 2024, Update on the Baseline Savings Exercise – TAIC
- 2 February 2024, Request for Info, Attachment: Questions on Department Metrics 2
- 7 February 2024, Request for Info – TAIC, attachment: Questions on Departmental Metrics 2 – TAIC response 5th February 2024

TAIC is unable to provide the above information under s 9(2)(g)(i) OIA, which allows the withholding of information where it is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs though the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty. As these matters are not yet concluded, it is our view that the public interest in these opinions and discussions does not outweigh the reason for withholding as disclosure would impact on future frank expression of opinions..

In general terms, TAIC can confirm that it has been requested over the last five months, by the Ministry of Transport, to provide details of the implications for TAIC of various baseline reduction scenarios, ranging from 2% to 10%. TAIC advised that any cuts to TAIC's baseline would reduce TAIC's capacity to deliver frontline services (respond to transport accidents and incidents and resource investigations and inquiries) and meet international obligations due to reduced output volume, increased timelines, and potential quality reductions.

Change management and employment relations

We can confirm that Te Kawa Mataaho has provided advice in relation to change management and redundancy including:

- 7 December 2023, Heads of HR notes
- 18 January 2024, Heads of HR notes and a key principles of managing change -fiscal sustainability programme 2024 document.

These are **attached**, with redactions to information that falls outside the scope of your OIA request.

Please contact our Support Services Officer at support.services@taic.org.nz if you wish to discuss this response.

If you are unhappy with our handling of, or decision on, your information request, you may make a complaint to the Ombudsman. However, please talk to us first to see if the issue can be resolved.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CB', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Cathryn Bridge
General Manager Business Services