

9 March 2026

REF: OIA26-TW07

s9(2)(a)

Via email: s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request, received on 19 February 2026 as follows:

"In a recent NZ Herald story published on TikTok <https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSmyQpq67/> on 18 Feb 2026 regarding options for funding a new harbour crossing, Geoff Cooper was shown saying regarding historic tolls on the Auckland Harbour Bridge: "If you income-adjust the original toll, it was actually closer to \$17".

Can the basis for this statement please be provided, that is:

(a) the historical data source used in this calculation,

(b) the date used as a reference point, and

(c) the calculation used to convert the historic cost of the original toll to a current day value."

Response and Decision

I have considered your request in accordance with the OIA and provide my response and decision as follows:-

Parts (a) and (b) of your request are refused under section 18 (d) of the OIA on the grounds that the information requested is publicly available.

I refer you to the last paragraph on page 26 of the report titled *Buying time: Toll roads, congestion charges, and transport investment* that is published on our website at the following link: <https://tewaihanga.govt.nz/our-work/research-insights/buying-time-toll-roads-congestion-charges-and-transport-investment>

In respect of Part (c), the calculation applied to convert the historic cost (as at 1950) to current day value (as at 2023) is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Value (1959)} \times \text{NZ's GDP deflator factor} \times \text{Inflation-adjusted GDP per capita factor} \\ &= \text{Value (2023)} \end{aligned}$$

Actual calculation is as follows:

$$\$0.25 \times 27.4 \times 2.6 = \$17.81$$

The values used in the calculations above are derived from the report referred to in response to parts (a) and (b) of your request.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Peter Nunns
General Manager, Strategy