

20 December 2024

s9(2)(a)

Via email: s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request, received on 28 November 2024. You requested:

"Please provide copies of reports, memos, briefing notes, correspondence or minutes of meetings including:

- 1. Te Waihanga correspondence to/from Central Government regarding Tarras / Central Otago Airport project, from 1 Jan 2024 to the present,*
- 2. Te Waihanga correspondence to/from Christchurch airport or any consultants working for them regarding Tarras / Central Otago Airport project, from 1 Jan 2024 to the present, and*
- 3. Te Waihanga internal reports or communications or rulings etc about the Tarras / Central Otago Airport project since Oct 2024."*

The parts of your request have been numbered for ease of reference below.

The New Zealand Infrastructure Commission/Te Waihanga (the Commission) has not been involved in discussions with other central government agencies on the Tarras/Central Otago Airport project, and we have not provided any memos or briefing notes on this project. Searches of our records also did not identify any correspondence with Christchurch International Airport Limited (CIAL) or any consultants working with them regarding the Tarras/Central Otago Airport project, nor internal reports or internal communications or rulings relevant to your request. Accordingly, part 1, part 2 and part 3 of your request are refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

Officials from the Commission have met with CIAL several times during the timeframe specified in your request. Our former Chief Executive, Ross Copland, and our General Manager – Infrastructure Delivery, Andy Hagan, met with the Chief Executive of CIAL, Justin Watson on 21 June 2024. Our Director – Infrastructure Strategy, Jon Butler, also met with Duncan Small, a consultant engaged by CIAL, on 20 February 2024.

These meetings involved high-level conversations across a number of infrastructure topics, and no minutes were taken. Accordingly, the part of your request seeking minutes of meetings is also refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

At the 20 February 2024 meeting, CIAL provided the Commission with a copy of a publication titled *Unlocking potential: Central Otago's runway to a future-focussed airport, August 2023*.

This document is publicly available here:

<https://www.centralotagoairport.co.nz/uploads/images/Unlocking-potential-31-Aug2023.pdf>.

This is the only report identified as being relevant to your request. Accordingly, the part of your request seeking reports is refused under section 18(d) of the OIA as this information is publicly available.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and the enclosed documents may be published on Te Waihanga's website.

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

Yours sincerely



Barbara Tebbs
General Manager – Policy