

OC250729

5 September 2025



Tēnā koe 

I refer to your email dated 5 August 2025 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Kia ora,

I am making this request under the Official Information Act 1982.

Please provide the following information:

All advice or analysis prepared since January 1, 2023, regarding changes to the Total Mobility scheme, including fare caps, eligibility, or funding model changes.

Briefings to the Minister of Transport that reference changes or reviews of the Total Mobility scheme.

If any part of this request will take substantial time to respond to, I am happy to discuss ways of refining it.”

We have interpreted your request as referring to advice and analysis on possible or proposed changes to the Total Mobility scheme, the progress of the review, and related Ministerial briefings. On this basis, we have identified 22 documents as falling within the scope of your request. These documents are detailed in the document schedule attached as Annex 1. The schedule outlines how the documents you requested have been treated under the Act.

Of the documents that are identified as within the scope of your request, nine documents are being released with some information withheld, seven documents are refused on the basis that the information is already publicly available, and six documents are withheld in full to maintain the confidentiality of advice that is still under development.

Annex 1 sets out the details of each document and the decision made. The following outlines the sections of the Act that have been applied in making these decisions:

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| 9(2)(a) | to protect the privacy of natural persons |
| 9(2)(f)(iv) | to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials |

- 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank advice
- 18(d) the information requested is or will soon be publicly available

The review of the Total Mobility scheme has taken longer than originally anticipated. In 2024, the terms of reference were revised to provide a clearer focus and ensure that the review addresses the right set of issues. The Ministry of Transport has also required additional time to carefully consider wider funding pressures and to ensure the scheme remains sustainable. This work is still ongoing, and Ministerial decisions will be made in due course. The inclusion of the document titles in the document schedule should not be perceived as signalling any Government decisions.

Regarding the information that has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, I am satisfied that the reasons for withholding the information at this time are not outweighed by public interest considerations that would make it desirable to make the information available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

The Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on the Ministry's website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā



Marian Willberg
Manager Maritime, Freight, and Access

Annex 1: Document Schedule

| Doc # | Reference number | Date | Title of Document | Proposed decision on request |
|-------|------------------|------------|---|--|
| 1 | OC230076 | 09/03/2023 | <i>Briefing</i> Implications of Permanent Half Price Total Mobility Funding | Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a). |
| 2 | OC230330 | 19/07/2023 | <i>Briefing</i> Total Mobility Review (Terms of Reference) | Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a). |
| 3 | OC240432 | 01/05/2024 | <i>Briefing</i> Total Mobility Scheme Review - Update | Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a). |
| 4 | OC240431 | 10/05/2024 | <i>Briefing</i> Meeting with the Small Passenger Service Association - 14 May 2024 | Released paragraphs 18-32, remaining content has been marked out of scope of this request. |
| 5 | OC240554 | 07/06/2024 | <i>Briefing</i> Total Mobility Scheme Review - Next Steps | Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a). |
| 6 | n/a | 28/08/2024 | <i>Document</i> Total Mobility Review Terms of Reference - Updated August 2024 | Refused under section 18(d) as it is already publicly available. The document can be found here: https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Total-Mobility-Scheme-review_Terms-of-Reference_updated_Final-August-2024.pdf |
| 7 | n/a | 10/09/2024 | <i>Cover Paper to Policy & Strategy SLT Sub-Committee</i> Total Mobility Scheme Review: Overview of policy direction | Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv). |
| 8 | OC241020 | 09/10/2024 | <i>Briefing</i> | Refused in full under section 18(d). |

| Doc # | Reference number | Date | Title of Document | Proposed decision on request |
|-------|------------------|------------|---|---|
| | | | Total Mobility Scheme Review: Overview of Policy Direction | This can be found on the Ministry's website here (refer to pages 6-17): https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/ReviewoftheTotalMobilityScheme.pdf |
| 9 | n/a | 25/10/2024 | <i>Email</i> Total Mobility user profile - Greater Wellington Regional Council | Refused in full under section 18(d). This can be found on the Ministry's website here (refer to pages 50-64): https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/ReviewoftheTotalMobilityScheme.pdf |
| 10 | n/a | 25/10/2024 | <i>Email</i> Total Mobility user profile - Environment Canterbury | Refused in full under section 18(d). This can be found on the Ministry's website here (refer to pages 45-49): https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/ReviewoftheTotalMobilityScheme.pdf |
| 11 | n/a | 25/10/2024 | <i>Email</i> Total Mobility user profile - Auckland Transport | Refused in full under section 18(d). This can be found on the Ministry's website here (refer to pages 34-37): https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/ReviewoftheTotalMobilityScheme.pdf |
| 12 | OC241218 | 30/10/2024 | <i>Briefing</i> Total Mobility Discussion Document - Approval to Initiate Ministerial Consultation | Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv). |
| 13 | OC240764 | 11/11/2024 | <i>Email</i> Total Mobility - Approval to Undertake Public Consultation | Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv). |
| 14 | OC240764 | 14/01/2025 | <i>Cabinet Paper (draft)</i> Total Mobility - Approval to undertake public consultation | Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv). |

| Doc # | Reference number | Date | Title of Document | Proposed decision on request |
|-------|------------------|------------|--|---|
| 15 | n/a | 24/01/2025 | <i>Document</i> Total Mobility: Discussion Document Final Draft | Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) as it is in draft form. |
| 16 | OC250090 | 19/02/2025 | <i>Briefing</i> Public Transport Concessions and Total Mobility | Refused in full under section 18(d). This can be found on the Ministry's website here (refer to pages 18-25): https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/ReviewoftheTotalMobilityScheme.pdf |
| 17 | OC250294 | 16/04/2025 | <i>Briefing</i> Funding Sustainability for the Community Connect Programme and the SuperGold Card Public Transport Concessions Scheme | Refused in full under section 18(d). This can be found on the Ministry's website here (refer to pages 26-33): https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/ReviewoftheTotalMobilityScheme.pdf |
| 18 | n/a | 13/05/2025 | <i>Weekly Report</i> Minister Brown Weekly Report | Released with some information withheld as out of scope. |
| 19 | OC250409 | 15/05/2025 | <i>Briefing</i> Total Mobility Scheme - Meeting with Minister for Disability Issues | Released with some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv). Annex 1 is withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv). Annex 2 is already publicly available here (pages 26-33): https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/ReviewoftheTotalMobilityScheme.pdf |
| 20 | OC250409 | 15/05/2025 | <i>Briefing (annex)</i> A3: Options for addressing Total Mobility Scheme funding pressures | Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv). |
| 21 | n/a | 10/07/2025 | <i>Cabinet paper</i> Government Subsidy to Permanently Reduce Public Transport Fares | Withheld in full under 9(2)(f)(iv) as it is in draft form. |

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|-------|------------------|------------|---|---|
| 22 | OC250491 | 16/07/2025 | <i>Briefing</i> Total Mobility - Options to Stabilise Cost Pressures | Released with some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv). |