


OC230568

20 July 2023

Tēnā koe 

I refer to your email dated 30 May 2023, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“How much has been budgeted to promote Community Connect in the 2023/24 year? How much was budgeted to promote Community Connect in the 2022/23 year? I am especially interested in promoting it to patrons of public transport, but if other promotion has been paid for, I would like to receive those figures too please.”

On 23 June 2023, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency transferred your request to Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport (Te Manatū Waka) under section 14 of the Act, as the information you have requested is more closely connected with the functions of Te Manatū Waka.

The Government has made available funding for public transport authorities (PTAs) to implement Community Connect. The responsibility of communicating the scheme falls on the PTAs, however, Te Manatū Waka is monitoring the uptake of the scheme. Since your request, we have updated the overview of Community Connect on our website at the following address: <https://www.transport.govt.nz/area-of-interest/public-transport/community-connect/>

In 2022/23, \$299,000 was available for communication and marketing costs associated with Community Connect. In 2023/24, there is \$525,000 available for communication and marketing costs associated with Community Connect and the Community Connect extensions. This funding will be distributed to PTAs when they make a claim for funding.

PTAs will claim their individual costs as appropriate and as such actual spend may differ from budgeted costs. For further information about the promotion of Community Connect, including actual spend on promotion costs, please contact your public transport authority. For Wellington, this is Greater Wellington Regional Council.

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

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

Nāku noa, nā



Helen White
Manager, Mobility and Safety