

OC220682

25 August 2022

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

I refer to your email dated 4 August 2022, requesting a copy of the following documents under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Wood OC220526 27/06/2022 Meeting with Bus and Coach Association on bus driver shortages*
- *Wood OC220421 29/06/2022 Let's Get Wellington Moving - Transformational Programme - Preferred Option Progress and Mass Rapid Transit Funding Principles*

The two documents that fall within scope of your request, and how they have been treated under the Act are set out in the table below.

Document	Decision on release
OC220526 Meeting with Bus and Coach Association on bus driver shortages	Some information withheld under Sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(j). This paper notes the impact of the Immigration Rebalance on bus driver shortages will depend on driver terms and conditions. The sector is working collaboratively to improve bus driver wages and conditions, and the Government has committed funding through Budget 22 to support this.
OC220421 Let's Get Wellington Moving - Transformational Programme - Preferred Option Progress and Mass Rapid Transit Funding Principles	Refused in full under Section 18(d) as it will soon be publicly available on the Ministry's website at: www.transport.govt.nz/area-of-interest/infrastructure-and-investment/lets-get-wellington-moving/

The following sections of the Act have been relied on for refusing or withholding information:

9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons

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|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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)(j) | to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) |
| 18(d) | the information requested is or will soon be publicly available |

With regard to 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 website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā



Hilary Penman
Manager, Ministerial Services



27 June 2022

OC220526

Hon Michael Wood
Minister of Transport

MEETING WITH BUS AND COACH ASSOCIATION ON BUS DRIVER SHORTAGES

Snapshot

You are meeting with the Bus and Coach Association (BCA) to discuss the challenges the sector is currently experiencing regarding driver shortages.

Time and date	10.00am, 30 June 2022
Venue	EW5.1 Parliament
Attendees	Sheryll Otway, President of the BCA and Ben McFadgen, Chief Executive of the BCA
Officials attending	Jacob McElwee, Principal Adviser, Te Manatū Waka

Contacts

Name	Telephone	First contact
Matthew Skinner, Acting Manager, Mobility and Safety	s 9(2)(a)	✓
Jacob McElwee, Principal Adviser, Mobility and Safety		

MEETING WITH BUS AND COACH ASSOCIATION ON BUS DRIVER SHORTAGES

s 9(2)(f)(iv), s 9(2)(j)



s 9(2)(f)(iv)



The impact of the Immigration Rebalance on bus driver shortages will depend on driver terms and conditions

- The Immigration Rebalance (the Rebalance) is intended to shift New Zealand toward a higher skilled migrant workforce which is better aligned to the skill gaps in our economy. The main way it does this is by applying a median wage threshold and introducing changes to the partnership visa. The median wage will be \$27.76 from July 4 2022.

- In most cases under the Rebalance, special arrangements are not needed for employing skilled migrant workers into vacancies. An employer can recruit a migrant worker if a role pays median wage or higher and no suitable New Zealander can be found (based on an employer declaration).
- According to Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) data, there are around 50 bus drivers on employer-assisted visas and the overwhelming majority (96 percent) are currently paid below the median wage.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

The establishment of the Sustainable Public Transport Framework will embed employment outcomes in future service procurement and contracts

- We recently provided you with a draft Cabinet paper (OC220364) to establish the Sustainable Public Transport Framework (SPTF). We are currently undertaking departmental consultation, ahead of ministerial consultation in July 2022.
- Employment outcomes are being driven by the SPTF objectives, and your intention is to embed these in the Land Transport Management Act 2003. You have signalled you would like to target introduction of a Bill in December 2022.
- Waka Kotahi is developing operational policy to protect and improve bus driver terms and conditions, to give effect to your agreed labour market outcomes.
- Initial work on what needs to be considered in the transfer of staff from one employer to another has been completed and shared with the Bus Driver Conditions Steering Group (the Steering Group). Ben McFadgen is a member of the Steering Group.
- Waka Kotahi is in discussion with PTAs who are looking to undertake procurement in the near future regarding the steps they are taking to ensure bus drivers are not negatively impacted if there is a change in operator.
- Once developed, draft operational policy and guidance will be shared with the Steering Group for their input.