OC260735

3 September 2026

[redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport (the Ministry) on 27 August 2026 , requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

> "a copy of the letter/correspondence that MoT/MCERT/the relevant authority initially sent to PTOs inviting them to apply for support so I can better understand how we got here?"

I have identified the following document within the scope of your request and am releasing it to you in full:

- Request for Financial Year 2025/26 fuel cost support to deliver contracted public transport services - Public transport authority application form

If you would like to discuss this decision with us, please do not hesitate to contact us at OIA@mcert.govt.nz.

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.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on its website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā

Hilary Penman
Manager, Ministerial & Executive Services
Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
TE MANATŪ WAKA

Request for Financial Year 2025/26 fuel cost support to deliver contracted public transport services | Public transport authority application form

To: all public transport authorities

This letter sets out the information required for the Ministry of Transport (the Ministry) to assess applications during Financial Year 2025/26 for the fuel cost support for public transport services which the Government has provided through Budget 2026. The funding itself will be delivered to public transport authorities via the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA).

Ministers have directed that this funding is available to support public transport authorities with the fuel cost pressures of operating existing contracted public transport services. It can support all diesel-powered modes including bus, metro rail, and ferry services. It is not available to support exempt or excluded services, or wider cost pressures (e.g. staff commuting, infrastructure costs, etc). Public transport authorities should view this funding as an offer to assist with some of your portion of the NZTA diesel fuel indexation tied to public transport contracts.

Ministers want assurance that public transport authorities have considered alternatives before being provided with Crown support. The Ministry is aware that many public transport authorities have considered operational adjustments in response to increased patronage and high fuel prices, and if so, we recommend that you simply summarise this work as a few paragraphs in the template below.

In addition to the information required in the template, we require you to provide some information related to your contracted public transport services to NZTA to enable NZTA to advise the Ministry on the recommended share of funding for 2025/26 to be distributed to PTAs. The information NZTA needs comprises, for each of your contracted units: the annual gross price, the in-service and out-of-service kilometres, and the average diesel consumption (litres per kilometre). Some of this information you may need to obtain from your operators. NZTA has already requested this information from you.

The policy intention of this funding is to support public transport authorities with fuel cost pressures. For Financial Year 2025/26, we want to ensure some cost pressure relief can be provided as quickly as possible. We will endeavour to allocate available funding as fairly across regions as we are able to.

Please note that the process for requesting funding for Financial Year 2026/27 is likely to change from 1 July 2026 as we enter the new financial year, with Ministerial approval required, and the transfer of transport functions to the new Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport.

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The funding will also become unavailable if the retail price of diesel (as reported by MBIE) drops below $2.50 per litre for four consecutive weeks. This is in line with how the Government has decided to provide fuel cost pressure support measures to other sectors (e.g. health and education). We will provide further information on the new process as soon as possible in the next financial year.

Please return your completed template to PMIM@transport.govt.nz, by 5pm 22 June 2026.

Kind regards,

Marian Willberg
Manager – Maritime, Freight & Access, Ministry of Transport

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Request for fuel cost support to deliver contracted public transport services

Information required	Public transport authority input
Administrative details	
Public transport authority name	
Public transport authority point of contact – name, position, and contact details	
Please indicate whether you have completed and returned the NZTA contracted services information request spreadsheet to NZTA	☐
Alternatives investigation	
Please provide a brief description of measures you have taken or investigated, such as operational service adjustments, in response to high fuel prices and increased patronage	
Please briefly identify any trade-offs that are or would be associated with these measures	
Signature	
I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information in this form is true and correct	
Date	

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