

15 February 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-24988

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2024-005

I refer to your request for information dated 15 January 2024, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 15 January 2024. You have requested the following:

"I would also like to know if I can have any documents, emails, notes (etc.) related to the decision to turn these stops into school-only bus stops, leading into the July 2018 changes.

Could I also have any documents, notes, or emails, relating to the July 2018 changes to the entire bus network?"

On Friday 26 January 2024 you clarified in an email that you were *"interested in the changes to the bus network in the suburb of Ōwhiro Bay."* Our content search therefore focused on the bus network changes in 2018 concerning Ōwhiro Bay.

Greater Wellington's response follows:

Background information:

In 2018 Metlink made changes to the bus network which included new bus routes for Ōwhiro Bay. Prior to 2018 Ōwhiro Bay had a very limited weekday only bus service.

New routes were implemented following feedback from the community to deliver more frequent and regular bus services that operated 7 days a week and included late evening services.

A faster more direct commuter service to the city was introduced which involved travelling to the city via Brooklyn rather than via Island Bay and Newtown.

The new routes also extended bus coverage to Ohiro Road which formerly had no commuter service to the city and no buses on weekends and evenings.

This change meant that instead of buses looping around Happy Valley Road, Robertson Road, Frobisher Street and Murchison Street (leaving Ohiro Road un-serviced), buses could now travel along Ōwhiro Bay Parade, Roberston Street, Frobisher Street, Murchison Street and on to Ohiro Road, bypassing Happy Valley Road between Robertson Road and Murchison Street. This change allowed a better overall service coverage to be provided to the wider area.

As school bus services were mostly unchanged, they continued to use Happy Valley Road. As the stops were now only used by school buses, they became school bus stops. The stops are school bus only because they are only utilised by school buses. This can be reviewed in future if the need to resume a normal commuter service was deemed necessary.

Please refer to **Attachment 1** which includes a document related to Ōwhiro Bay specifically.

All other documents we have relate to the overall bus network changes.

Please refer to **Attachment 2** which includes the 2018 bus network changes brochure.

Please refer to **Attachment 3** which includes an overview of the bus network changes in 2018.

Please refer to **Attachment 4** which includes briefing notes for a presentation made to the Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee on 27 September 2018.

Please refer to **Attachment 5** which includes email correspondence on 24 October 2017 relating to proposed timetable changes in Brooklyn and Ōwhiro Bay. Please note, these were proposed and subject to change.

We have withheld information in this attachment under section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

We have considered whether the public interest in the requested information outweighs Greater Wellington's need to withhold certain aspects of the requested information. As a result, we do not consider that the public interest outweighs Greater Wellington's reason for withholding parts of the document under the grounds identified above.

Please refer to **Attachment 6** which includes the proposed timetable for Route 625 – school routes.

Please refer to **Attachment 7** which includes the proposed timetable for Route 29.

Please refer to **Attachment 8** which includes the proposed timetable for Route 17

Please refer to **Attachment 9** which includes the proposed timetable for Route 7.

Please refer to the below link to the Sustainable Transport Committee agenda on 30 October 2018 which discusses the bus network changes. <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/events-and-meetings/sustainable-transport-committee-10/>

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Samantha Gain

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Waka-ā-atea | Group Manager Metlink