

16 December 2025

### **Official Information Act request - Ferry Infrastructure Project Costs and Scope**

Thank you for your recent emails regarding your Official Information Act request. We appreciate your interest in Ferry Holdings Limited.

Ferry Holdings is committed to ensuring openness and transparency, and to providing timely communication that aligns with key decisions and commercial contracting processes.

Since being established in March 2025, there have been three significant announcements about the Cook Strait Ferry Replacement Programme:

- 1 July 2025 announcement - the Minister for Rail confirmed the foundations for the Cook Strait port infrastructure. This announcement outlined key components such as new linkspans, wharf extensions, and rail yard adjustments. This was accompanied by the release of the Ferry Holdings' Statement of Intent and Performance Expectations, detailing long-term and short-term plans for ships and supporting infrastructure.
- 14 October 2025 - the Minister for Rail announced that the Government, through Ferry Holdings, had secured Guangzhou Shipyard International (GSI) to build two new Cook Strait ferries.
- 19 November 2025 - the Minister for Rail announced the Government's final decision for the Cook Strait Ferry Replacement Programme and highlighted infrastructure upgrades in the Wellington and Picton ports and provided a detailed media pack.

FHL recently attended the Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee during scrutiny week, where the Minister for Rail, and KiwiRail also appeared, and answered questions about the Ferry Replacement Programme.

The Treasury also publishes OIA responses and proactive releases regarding the Ferry Replacement Programme on its website (<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications>).

We have reconsidered your request for information dated 3 November 2025, as well as your follow-up requests on 1 December 2025 and we have decided to maintain our original decision and decline to provide additional information at this time.

We've also considered your follow-up request from 3 December 2025, which seeks either additional details or more specific reasons for our earlier decision, and we are declining that request at this stage too. Below we provide an explanation for our decisions.



### **Some of the information will soon be available**

We declined your 3 November request in part under section 18(d) of the OIA on the basis that some of the information requested will be made available on Ferry Holding's website in February 2026. The proactive release will focus on releasing advice and reports to shareholding Ministers that summarises the key information you have requested.

We acknowledge the length of time between refusing your request and the anticipated public release of some of the information. Overall, we consider release in February is within the timeframe contemplated under s18(d). This is particularly in the context of the current period of commercial negotiations and takes into account the holiday shut down period in December and January (and the non-working days it includes).

We will update you if the information is published sooner than anticipated.

### **Ferry Holdings is undertaking commercial negotiations**

We considered the matters raised in your 1 December email regarding our decision to withhold certain information under sections 9(2)(i) and (j) of the OIA. We consider this is justified given the context of our current commercial operating environment. We also note you are not contesting the commercial context of our decision, rather, you are contesting what you describe as the blanket nature of our refusal.

Ferry Holdings is currently actively involved in significant commercial negotiations with CentrePort, Port Marlborough, and KiwiRail regarding the development of portside infrastructure to support the new ferries, the long-term use of the developed facilities, and the operation of the new ferries. Those negotiations are ongoing and are generally being conducted separately to one another (e.g. there are three separate, but interrelated negotiations, being carried out) to ensure that Ferry Holdings and, ultimately, the taxpayer get the best outcome.

Releasing the information you have requested could prejudice our negotiating position and commercial interests as well as the outcomes for the taxpayer. Therefore, we cannot disclose details associated with these negotiations for those reasons. For example, disclosing expected costs, issues arising, the positions or correspondence of negotiating partners, or specifics of our discussions could affect our negotiations with each party.



## **The broad nature of the request and refusal**

With regards to your comments about the broad nature of our refusal, the information requested is itself broad, and covers a significant portion of Ferry Holdings' work since our inception in March 2025.

Before responding to your 3 November request, Ferry Holdings carried out a scoping exercise to determine the information that may come within the scope of your request. From this scoping exercise, it was clear to us that a significant amount of all information held by Ferry Holdings was within the scope of your request.

On reflection it may have been more accurate for us to have refused your request for the administrative reason in s 18(f) (the information could not be made available without substantial collation or research).

## **Request for a document-by-document schedule**

Regarding your request for more detailed reasons and a document-by-document schedule on 3 November 2025, we have considered the scope and volume of information involved.

We have considered whether consulting with you in some way to refine your request may assist us to provide further information. However, we have determined that none of these options will resolve the reasons for refusing your request in this instance.

We have determined that responding to your request as a small organisation and compiling such a schedule would require substantial resources and could affect our ability to carry out operations. Therefore, we refuse this request under section 18(f) of the OIA.

Ferry Holdings has considered whether there is any countervailing public interest in the release of the information you have requested, which would indicate we ought to release the information despite the good reasons for withholding it. On balance we do not consider any public interest in its release outweighs the good reasons for withholding the requested information.

## **Consulting with our legal counsel**

Ferry Holdings has engaged MinterEllisonRuddWatts as legal counsel and they are acting for us through the current commercial negotiations. This is a matter of public record. It is appropriate for Ferry Holdings to seek advice from its advisors that have knowledge of its commercial negotiations and the potential impact of information being released.



## Next steps

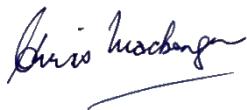
We hope this letter offers clear reasons for the decisions made in response to your requests. If you wish to discuss our decisions further, please contact us at [info@ferryholdings.co.nz](mailto:info@ferryholdings.co.nz).

You have the right to seek a review of our decisions by the Ombudsman. Information on how to make a complaint is available at <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz> or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note this letter will be published on [www.ferryholdings.co.nz](http://www.ferryholdings.co.nz) on 17 December 2025.

Thank you again for your interest in Ferry Holdings Limited.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Mackenzie  
Chair  
Ferry Holdings Limited



Sandip Ranchhod  
Chief Executive  
Ferry Holdings Limited

