

7 June 2023

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-2592

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2023-123

I refer to your request for information dated 10 May 2023, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 10 May 2023. You have requested the following:

[REDACTED] was made to walk up the Remutaka Hill after a Metlink rail replacement bus broke down on New Year's Eve last year. The link to a Stuff story is below. I just want to know the outcome of the investigation. I also a request a copy of the investigation report under the Official Information Act."

Greater Wellington's response follows:

Background information

On 31 December 2022, a Wairarapa train collided with a milk tanker at Matarawa road level crossing. This resulted in the Wairarapa line being closed and the buses that were being used for the block of line between Wellington and Upper Hutt were also used to transport passengers over the Remutaka Hill. Passengers disembarked willingly and were picked up again by the same bus approximately five minutes later when it resumed service.

Please see **Attachment 1** which contains the report from this incident. Under section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), we have withheld the name of the individual who reported the incident and those who do not work for Greater Wellington, in order 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 report from this incident. 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.

Response to your request for a copy of the investigation report

We have attached the milk tanker incident report which relates to the bus incident; however, as there is no investigation report to release, we refuse this part of your request for information under section 17(e) of the Act, on the basis the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

When using this ground, we are required to consider consulting the requester. In this instance, we do not believe consulting you would change our response to your request for information.

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



Fiona Abbott

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Waka-ā-atea | Acting Group Manager Metlink

Immediate Report (logged at the earliest opportunity)

Report details	
Interframe reference no.	
Date and time of disruption	31/12/2022 07:45
Type of disruption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disruption <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle / Asset Failure
Date of disruption	31/12/2022
Reported by	██████████
Report issued to:	Daniel Pou; Barry Fryer; Andrew Keane; Melissa Anderson; (e-mail to Daniel.pou@gw.govt.nz ; Barry.fryer@gw.govt.nz ; Andrew.keane@gw.govt.nz ; Melissa.Anderson@gw.govt.nz ;) ██ ██ ██ ██
Date/time report issued	12/01/2023 16:45
Disruption details	
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At approximately 07:45 the loco of Wairarapa Line service 1613 collided with a milk tanker at Matarawa Road level crossing. 68 passengers onboard the train. No injuries reported as of 09:30. Passengers disembarked and 1613 replaced by bus between Matarawa and Wellington subsequent. 1614 replaced by bus between Wellington and Masterton subsequent. Received reports of the bus for 1614 breaking down on Rimutaka Hill; passengers disembarked and walked up the hill to allow the bus to get up the hill. Services resumed as trains from 1615 southbound, 1616 northbound.
Estimated duration	Approximately 07:45 to 16:45
Affected lines	WRL
Vehicle or asset failure	Bus for 1614 broke down on Rimutaka Hill due to overloading of passengers.
Services affected	1613, 1614

Report details	
Alternative transport arrangements	3 Tranzurban double decker bus replacements provided for 1613 between Matarawa and Wellington. 1614 bus replaced between Wellington and Masterton.
Actions taken	Wairarapa Line closed to trains; bus replacements arranged for passengers.
Safety Implications	Unsafe to use Wairarapa Line due to a collision taking place.
Resolution of disruption	Passengers evacuated from 1613 and transferred to multiple buses for the remainder of their journey – staggered due to overloading of buses. Crew relieved from 1613.

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(a) unplanned Disruption involving an indefinite suspension or a suspension that has lasted or is likely to last more than 45 minutes; (b) health or safety incidents affecting any part of the Services (including any Notifiable Events); and (c) major Vehicle or asset failures				
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