

Reference: 20230007

16 January 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request, received on 6 January 2023.
You requested:

I request under the OIA all advice to Ministers regarding the risk that investors' confidence in lending to New Zealand borrowers will be undermined by legislating that the payment to local territorial authorities by Water Service Entities for water services assets transferred to those Entities be only debt owed in respect of water services infrastructure transferred rather than the assets value.

I realise that Treasury has proactively released much of its advice to Ministers regarding Three Waters Reform.

In the interests of obtaining a timely response, this request is limited to the specific issue of the risk that investors' confidence in lending to New Zealand borrowers will be undermined by the legislated restriction that the payment to territorial authorities by Water Service Entities will be equivalent to the debt owed in respect of the assets transferred and not, as would be normal, the value of the assets. For Wellington City Council the assets value is around \$3.8B but the payment will be only \$190M according to the DIA modelling of the Financial Impact

We have searched all available resources and have been unable to find any advice that Treasury has prepared for Ministers that falls within the scope of your request. Therefore, your request for information is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA – *the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.*

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

David Taylor
Manager, National Infrastructure Unit