

7 November 2025

Sent via email to [REDACTED]

LG25-0306 - Traffic Counting Contract

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – PARTIAL RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 14 October 2025 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

I am wanting to find out the following information for your current traffic counting contract for the region:

- 1. When was it last awarded?**
- 2. Who was it awarded to?**
- 3. What price was it awarded for?**
- 4. When does the current contract expire?**

QLDC RESPONSE

Partial release of information

- 1. When was it last awarded?**
- 2. Who was it awarded to?**
- 4. When does the current contract expire?**

In response to your request, we consulted with the QLDC Strategic Asset Management Team.

Downer Contracting Limited undertakes a rolling tube count programme as part of the long-term QLDC Road Maintenance Contract, with the associated infrastructure owned by QLDC. This contract was awarded in 2016 and is due to expire in 2027. The value of the contract is withheld, with the grounds for withholding outlined below. The traffic count programme is expected to remain within the scope of the next Road Maintenance Contract.

QLDC also operates and manages the following:

- Three fixed MetroCount sites across the district, which provide continuous traffic monitoring. The value of this contract is estimated at \$74,000 (including GST).
- SmartSense operates a network of Bluetooth-based traffic monitoring across both state highways and local roads. This contract commenced around 2020 and is due to end on 30 June 2026, with an estimated value of approximately \$242,500 (including GST).

QLDC also commissions one-off traffic counting services on occasion to inform procurement processes and transport modelling. The most recent contract was awarded to Team Traffic in 2025, valued at approximately \$119,000 (including GST).

QLDC is currently in the process of procuring a new transport monitoring contract, which is expected to go to market in mid-2026. Details are still being finalised, but the procurement will be released to the open market via the Government Electronic Tender Service (GETS), in 2026.

Decision to withhold information

3. What price was it awarded for?

We have good reason under section 7(2)(b)(ii) and section 7(2)(i) of the LGOIMA for withholding information requested. We consider it is necessary to withhold this information on the basis of the following grounds:

- Section 7(2)(b) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information—
 - (ii) would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.
- Section 7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

Section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the LGOIMA is intended to protect information whose release could unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of individuals or entities. This provision recognises the importance of safeguarding commercially sensitive data to maintain competitive integrity and encourage ongoing business confidence.

Section 7(2)(i) of the LGOIMA protects the Council's capacity to conduct negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage. Releasing detailed contract values at this time could disadvantage QLDC in forthcoming procurement processes and undermine the Council's negotiating position.

In this case, the information withheld relates to the monetary value of a legally binding contract for long-term roading maintenance. This contract is due for renewal in 2027. Council has considered whether the public interest in release outweighs the need to withhold. Having done so, Council consider that disclosure of the specific contract value would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the supplier and QLDC's bargaining position in future negotiations.

The public interest in transparency around Council expenditure has been considered. That interest is met through the release of information regarding the contract's scope and duration. On balance, the need to protect legitimate commercial interests and preserve QLDC's ability to negotiate on fair and competitive terms outweighs the public interest in releasing the withheld figures.

Accordingly, the requested contract value information is withheld under sections 7(2)(b)(ii) and 7(2)(i) of the LGOIMA.

Public interest considerations

In assessing whether to withhold information, QLDC carefully evaluates the public interest—particularly whether disclosure would enhance transparency, accountability, or informed public engagement. This assessment includes weighing those benefits against the potential harm that could result from releasing the information.

QLDC acknowledges the public interest in ensuring transparency and accountability among local authority members and officials and supports the principles of good governance. We remain committed to releasing information wherever appropriate. However, in this case, disclosure would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the parties involved and adversely affect the Council's ability to carry on negotiations without disadvantage.

Accordingly, QLDC has determined that sections 7(2)(b)(ii) and 7(2)(i) of the LGOIMA apply. The potential harm to the commercial interests of the parties and to Council's negotiation processes outweighs any identified public interest in making the information available.

Right to review the above decision

Note that you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about this process is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please contact Naell.Crosby-Roe@qldc.govt.nz (Director Democracy Services).

We trust that the above information satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,



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