



Chris Roberts
Chief Executive, Tourism Industry Aotearoa
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14 AUG 2020

Dear Mr Roberts

Health and Safety at Work (Adventure Activities) Regulations 2016: safety audit costs

Thank you for letter of 16 July 2020 seeking government funding to support the 2020/21 audit costs for adventure tourism operators regulated under the Adventure Activities Regulations.

The COVID-19 crisis is unprecedented and I am acutely aware of the hardships this has placed the tourism sector. I understand that ongoing operating costs in a constrained environment, such as safety audits, are putting additional pressure on adventure activity operators.

Safety audits are a critical component of the Adventure Activities Regulations. They ensure adventure activity operators follow good health and safety practice and are actively working to minimise the risk of harm to workers and consumers. The safety audit process helps support our reputation as a high quality destination for adventure activities, and enables adventure tourism to remain a strategic tourism asset for New Zealand.

My officials have explored various funding avenues within the Tourism and Workplace Relations and Safety portfolios to understand if safety audit costs could be addressed through alternative means. Currently there are no suitable funding sources within government available to address these costs.

I understand that WorkSafe is ensuring that flexibility around audit timings for businesses affected by Covid-19 is available. Certifying bodies are also working with the industry to provide a similar level of flexibility. WorkSafe has ensured that this is in alignment with international good-practice for accredited auditing. Your letter is supportive of WorkSafe's approach.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A Little', written over the typed name.

Hon Andrew Little
Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety