



MP for Mana

Minister of Broadcasting, Communications
and Digital Media

Minister for Government Digital Services

Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Associate Minister of Housing (Public Housing)

OIA20-01

20 FEB 2020

Zane O'Neill
fyi-request-11957-9698817b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Zane

Thank you for your email of 31 December 2019 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *Do you have a 5G strategy for New Zealand?*
 - 1.1 *If yes, I request to see the complete strategy, its ambitions and its objectives in, Word, PDF or picture format.*
 - 1.2 *If yes, has the public had the opportunity to read and understand the 5G rollout strategy? Where was this information published?*
 - 1.3 *I also request a supplementary document that includes the highest level of detail on all 5G technology that's planned to be used and current in use in public spaces within New Zealand*
 - (a) *Companies and entities involved and the names of the company/entity officers.*
 - (b) *Specification sheets of 5G technology.*
 - (c) *What technology e.g. units and arrays are not currently 5G, but can be 5G enabled e.g. with current software, future software, hardware upgrades or retrofitting?*
 - (d) *What NZ, and International safety standards is New Zealand complying with for the 5G strategy and existing 5G technology.*
 - (e) *I request proof e.g. a certificate government that confirms that NZ and International safety standards for workers and the public have been meet.*
 - 1.4 *If no, I request to know when you will be chairing a 5G strategy?*
2. *I request the name/s of the Officer/s in charge of the 5G strategy and roll out for 5G for New Zealand*
3. *Are you in talks with any experts, companies or entities about autonomous vehicles (AV) for public transport and/or private use on Public Highways?*
4. *I request proof e.g. a certificate from you that confirms that NZ and International safety standards for workers and the public have been meet.*

This response covers information received by me as Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media.

I can confirm that at this time the Government does not have a 5G strategy. I can advise that, at this time there are no strategy publications including the information you have requested as listed below held by my office. On that basis, I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

- *supplementary document that includes the highest level of detail on all 5G technology that's planned to be used and current in use in public spaces within New Zealand*
- *Companies and entities involved and the names of the company/entity officers.*
- *Specification sheets of 5G technology.*
- *What technology e.g. units and arrays are not currently 5G, but can be 5G enabled e.g. with current software, future software, hardware upgrades or retrofitting?*

However 5G is an important enabling technology for New Zealand, and I have asked officials to undertake exploratory work and provide advice on the development of a strategy for 5G.

In regard to your question "*What NZ, and International safety standards is New Zealand complying with for the 5G strategy and existing 5G technology*", please be assured that New Zealand has robust systems in place, based on international standards, to ensure the safety of our communities. This includes regulations for cell site exposure limits, regular independent monitoring of cell sites, and continued monitoring of research in this field.

Network providers must submit pre-commencement reports to the local council to show that the requirements in the NESTF and New Zealand standard will be met for each cell site covered by the NESTF. If the report shows that the cell site will generate exposures at or above 25 per cent of the public exposure limit, further reporting to the local council is required. If a facility or network operator cannot comply with requirements in the NESTF, then resource consent is required from the relevant local council. Information on the cell sites in your area can be obtained from your local council

- *I request proof e.g. a certificate government that confirms that NZ and International safety standards for workers and the public have been met.*

My office does not hold a certificate or any other documentation to confirm that New Zealand and international standards for workers and the public have been met. On that basis, I am refusing the following question under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

You might be interested in the documents that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment released in advance of allocating radio spectrum for 5G services, available to read here: www.rsm.govt.nz/projects-and-auctions/current-projects/preparing-for-5g-in-new-zealand/. These include:

- The initial consultation document on spectrum for 5G, "Preparing for 5G in New Zealand", and industry submissions on the consultation www.rsm.govt.nz/projects-and-auctions/consultations/preparing-for-5g-in-new-zealand-technical-consultation/
- A technical consultation about the arrangements of the 3.5 GHz band, "Technical Arrangements of the 3.5 GHz Band", and industry submissions on the consultation www.rsm.govt.nz/projects-and-auctions/consultations/technical-arrangements-of-the-3-5-ghz-band/

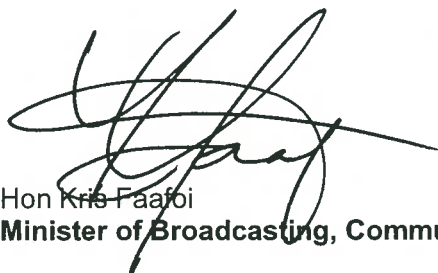
- The Cabinet papers regarding allocation of spectrum for 5G, “Allocation of radio spectrum for 5G mobile”, and “Early access to 5G radio spectrum”
www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/10370-early-access-to-5g-radio-spectrum-proactiverelease-pdf
www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/4610-allocation-of-radio-spectrum-for-5g-mobile
- An information pack on the regulations and standards involved in the 5G roll-out, including the role of Ministry of Health and Ministry for the Environment in this system. This document also links to existing government information including from the Ministry of Health and the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor.
www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/7483-5g-media-information-pack-pdf

The information relating to question three of your request concerning autonomous vehicles is not held by this office and is more closely aligned with portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Transport and the functions of the Ministry of Transport.

In accordance with section 14 of the Act, this question has been transferred to the Minister for Transport Hon Phil Twyford for consideration.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision on this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media