

19 February 2020

Tyler  
[fyi-request-12073-4548ddf8@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12073-4548ddf8@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: NZT-4655

Dear Tyler

### **Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 22 January 2020 to Auckland Transport requesting information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. On 29 January 2020, your request was transferred to Waka Kotahi, the NZ Transport Agency, for response under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your request is quoted below:

*"Can you please advise and disclose whether there is any correlation between the time of day and the variable speed zone limit from Waterview to Kingsland on the SH16 Motorway.*

*Eg. From the Hours of A to B - Speed is 80kph (Southbound)*

*If so, is there any justification for this compared to decreasing speed during poor weather and conditions."*

On weekdays, during the hours 5:30am to 10am and 3pm to 8pm, the speed limit on State Highway 16 (SH16) from Waterview to Kingsland is 80km/h. Outside of those hours, the speed limit is typically 100km/h.

The Transport Agency calculates speed limits by reference to the Speed Management Guide. The Speed Management Guide is a document that helps modernise the approach to managing speed in New Zealand. It supports a consistent approach to speed that is appropriate for road function, design, safety, use and the surrounding environment. The Speed Management Guide is available at: [www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/Safety/docs/speed-management-resources/speed-management-guide-first-edition-201611.pdf](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/Safety/docs/speed-management-resources/speed-management-guide-first-edition-201611.pdf).

Following the above approach, the Transport Agency has determined the safe and appropriate speed between Waterview and Kingsland to be 80km/h. This is mainly due to the corridor's high collective risk (a measure of the number of deaths and serious injuries per kilometre). Because the crashes are predominantly rear-end and lane splitting type crashes, which generally occur in peak traffic conditions, it is appropriate to have an 80km/h speed limit when traffic is heavy. We undertook traffic analysis to assess when indicated peak periods occur and found that to be weekdays from 5:30am to 10am and 3pm to 8pm.

We also consider there to be safety benefits from decreasing speeds during poor weather and other adverse conditions (such as a result of incidents, road works). This is applied at the discretion of the Auckland Transport Operations Centre, depending on the severity and nature of the conditions.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Jeremy O'Brien, Manager Behaviour and Choice, by email to [jeremy.obrien@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:jeremy.obrien@nzta.govt.nz) or by phone on 09 928 8794.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil Walker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Neil Walker**

Senior Manager, Journey Management Centre