

29 June 2021

Cody C  
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REF: OIA-8248

Dear Cody

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

Thank you for your email of 8 June 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*What work has been done on digital identity (high level)? Has a digital drivers license been looked at and approximately how far away might this be?*

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is working collaboratively with the Department of Internal Affairs for the establishment of a Digital Identity Trust Framework to address the regulatory gaps in New Zealand's digital identity system. The establishment of a Trust Framework was agreed to by Cabinet in July 2020. Further information can be found at the following link, which includes Cabinet Paper documents that have been proactively released: [www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/Proactive-releases/\\$file/Combined-Digital-Identity-Proactive-Release.pdf](http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/Proactive-releases/$file/Combined-Digital-Identity-Proactive-Release.pdf)

An earlier announcement regarding this programme can also be found at the below: [www.digital.govt.nz/news/development-of-digital-identity-trust-framework-confirmed/](http://www.digital.govt.nz/news/development-of-digital-identity-trust-framework-confirmed/)

Subject to legislative authorisation and availability of funding, it is likely that Waka Kotahi will aim to be an early adopter of the digital identity solutions that will underpin the Trust Framework and improve ease of access to services for all New Zealanders.

While digital driver licences (DDL) promise convenience to customers and better identity security, a roadmap to support the introduction of DDLs in New Zealand is yet to be developed, and legislative change will be required as a pre-requisite before this could take place. This is because legislation currently prescribes that the driver licence credential must be in a physical format.

Waka Kotahi is currently monitoring the development of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Standard 18013-5 to prepare for the safe and effective introduction of DDL in line with international standards. The introduction of DDL systems and policies in accord with the International Standard will provide a secure platform for future interoperability, meaning one of the benefits for licence holders opting in to a DDL will be that they may be acceptable in international jurisdictions, whereas jurisdictions that are transitioning to DDLs in isolation of the ISO Standard will miss this opportunity for licence holder benefit.

If you are interested in learning more about the development of the Digital Identity Trust Framework, I recommend contacting the Department of Internal Affairs' Digital Identity team by email at [digital.identity@dia.govt.nz](mailto:digital.identity@dia.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Evans', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Hayley Evans**  
Senior Manager Systems Integrity