

**Response: OIA2021.62**

24 September 2021

To Lewis Holden

Via email FYI.org

Dear Lewis

**Information request for information on Mean Distance Between Failure statistics**

I refer to your official information request dated 15 September 2021, asking for the monthly Mean Distance Between Failures (MDBF) data.

The attached Excel document shows the monthly faults, kilometres and MDBF by each class of mainline locomotive for the past three year, both in individual numbers, and as **6-monthly rolling average**.

As you will note there is considerable fluctuation in the figures from month to month, which means any analysis should look at long term trends.

You should also note that different generations of DL locomotives have different MDBFs, with the later versions incorporating improvements which have resulted in better performance.

Mean Distance between Failures is only one measure that is looked at when assessing service performance. A more critical measure is whether a failure affected a service or not, measured as a Service Affected Failure (SAF). A SAF is a failure that affects a train service by more than ten minutes. Our focus is on the prevention of SAFs, as they are what affect our On Time Performance and the service we can offer our customers.

Other factors that should be considered alongside the MDBF measurement are what line a locomotive was travelling on, what sort of freight it was carrying and whether it was a just in time or slower freight service.

We trust this answers your query.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling free-phone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



**Dave Allard**

**Government Relations Advisor, KiwiRail**