



Geoff Edwards
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Tēnā koe Geoff Edwards

Questions about roadside littering

Thank you for your request for information of 24 July 2024 about roadside littering and how the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) ensures the specifications of the Litter Act 1979 (the Act) are being met by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the Ministry does not hold any information within scope of your request.

Littering remains a common and visible issue that has both financial and environmental costs. The Ministry has worked alongside partners to document the extent of the issue. This has included for example providing funding to Sustainable Coastlines to support Aotearoa's first national litter database <https://sustainablecoastlines.org/about/our-programmes/litter-intelligence/>.

The Ministry does not monitor NZTA's regulatory compliance with the Act. The Minister for the Environment, Hon Penny Simmonds, (the Minister) intends to reform the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and Litter Act 1979 to ensure there is fit-for-purpose, modern waste legislation that provides more options and flexibility to reduce and manage waste effectively and efficiently. Officials at the Ministry are currently undertaking policy development of components of the reform with a view to engaging in further discussions with the Minister to determine what will be incorporated into the amended legislation. It is intended that there will be an opportunity for consultation on the proposals during 2025 and this will also be considered in the development of the legislation.

Thank you once again for writing.

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Wigley'.

Glenn Wigley
General Manager, Waste and HSNO Policy