

OIA2024 - 146

John Voss

Via email - [fyi-request-27883-9cc41c82@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-27883-9cc41c82@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Voss

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), on 17 August 2024, regarding travel times and speeds for freight services between Auckland and Wellington, asking:

- 1. The total average travel time for freight services from Auckland to Wellington.*
- 2. The typical speed of the train on each section of the journey, assuming no speed restrictions are in place.*

Please find the requested information below.

#### **Question 1:**

We operate an express freight service moving freight between Auckland and Christchurch. Weekday services travel from Auckland to Wellington in 13 hours and are scheduled to connect to Interislander ferry connections and then on to Christchurch. The express service makes short stops in Te Rapa and Palmerston North for crew changes only.

Other train services running between Auckland and Wellington have slightly longer transit times (between 14 and 16 hours). This includes the train run time and scheduled activities enroute: wagon attachment and detachment, contain transfer work, locomotive change, and crew changes in Te Rapa and Palmerston North. These services connect in with freight from Bay of Plenty and Waikato regions at Te Rapa and Taranaki and Hawkes Bay freight at Palmerston North.

Our rail and ferry network connects more than 300 customers' freight supply chains and we move around 18 million tonnes of freight each year. Half of all imports and exports from the largest coastal port in the country, Port of Tauranga, are moved by rail.

Rail provides critical capacity, particularly for long distance and heavy products, and connects New Zealand producers with overseas markets.

#### **Question 2:**

Freight trains are permitted to travel at 80km/h on KiwiRail's network. The average speed is dependent on several factors. Rail operating rules determine the maximum train speed permitted on each section and take into account rolling stock restrictions, track gradient and maximum train weight, length and speed.



This decision has been made under the OIA. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Ratuva".

Laura Ratuva

**Senior Communications Advisor, KiwiRail**

