

1 November 2024

G Smith
fyi-request-28569-5d3ee997@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-16602

Dear G Smith

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 28 September 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I am interested whether the death and injury rates on roads which had a speed reduction has been reported on by the Ministry.

The roads in question are ones which had speed reductions (50-30km/h, 100-80km/h) which the Transport Minister is seeking to reverse.

<https://apc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.stuff.co.nz%2Fnews%2F350433126%2Fspeed-limit-reductions-reversing-back-2019-transport-minister-says&data=05%7C02%7C0ia%40transport.govt.nz%7Cec159a5811974605e4da08dcdf7de0b1%7Cff09ef007cd0407ebe0ef00bc475a9ab%7C0%7C0%7C638630978979705136%7CUnknown%7CTWfPbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQljoiv2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7PSJXMR%2F7DKmRdYZnQGmi01GzI4QLchal9q9Mn%2BsYbl%3D&reserved=0>

If such work has previously been done, for example in preparation of the initial speed reduction program, I request any reports, memos, analysis done.

If there has not been any work done, I request any data held relating to deaths and injuries for the speed reduction roads for 1 July 2014 - 1 July 2024.

I request a full list of these roads, separated into the two speed bands if possible, and the number of deaths and injuries on those roads for 1 July 2014 - 1 July 2024.

Your request was transferred to NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) on 3 October 2024 as it was more closely connected to our functions. However please note that NZTA as a road controlling authority (RCA) is only responsible for setting speed limits on New Zealand's state highways.

Local councils and Auckland Transport are the RCAs for local roads so you will need to make a request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) to the relevant RCA for information pertaining to their network. The majority of roads with a speed limit of 50km/h that were lowered to 30km/h would be local roads.

To clarify, the new *Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024* (the Rule) only came into force on 30 October 2024. Section 11 of the Rule requires speed limit reductions implemented from 1 January 2020 to be reversed by 1 July 2025 on certain types of roads. In line with section 11.2 of the Rule, all RCAs need to consider the new Rule as it requires them to submit a list of roads subject to reversals to the Registrar before 1 May 2025.

NZTA is currently assessing which sections of state highways this requirement applies to. As the work is ongoing, we do not yet have a list of confirmed locations. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act because the information requested is not held by NZTA and we have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by another department or by a local authority.

Before changes can take effect, there is a formal regulatory process involved with reversing speed limits and a number of procedural steps that NZTA must follow. NZTA will be advising communities of any proposed changes, including where consultation may be considered, in early 2025. Reversals will be undertaken in a staged approach before 1 July 2025.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact the Ministerial Services team by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Cate Quinn
Acting National Manager Portfolio & Standards