



07 DEC 2018

Stephen Davis

fyi-request-9042-01fccb83@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Davis

I refer to your request of 12 November 2018, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, (the OIA) seeking:

“Since taking office last year, what reports have you seen, or other communications have you received from or sent to NZTA, MoT, other ministers, or other staff or agencies, on the topic of possible changes to right-of-way rules for pedestrians at intersections? For items received please also include what response, if any, you sent.”

A number of documents fall within the scope of your request and are listed in the attached table, however only information in document 1 has been released.

Most of information contained in the documents is outside the scope of your request. Of the remaining information, much of it has been withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA. This section relates to the constitutional conventions which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers of officials. The rest is withheld under section 9(2)(a) which relates to the privacy of natural persons and comprises names and contact numbers of officials.

A package of rule changes, which was originally titled “Vulnerable Users and Pathways” and subsequently changed to “Accessible Streets”, fell within scope of your request.

The Accessible Streets package aims to promote safe movement on the footpath for all users. It will enhance the liveability and vibrancy of New Zealand cities and towns through better designed and regulated pathways, which will reduce barriers to active transport. It will also support access to public transport. Accessible Streets contains four proposals to amend land transport rules:

- to clarify what types of vehicles should be allowed on footpaths, and under what conditions
- to improve the safety of vulnerable road users at intersections
- to introduce a mandatory minimum overtaking gap for vehicles when passing cyclists
- to give scheduled buses priority when exiting bus stops on urban roads.

Multiple draft versions of the briefing and Cabinet papers for Accessible Streets, as well as the Regulatory Impact Statement, are listed in the attached table. I am currently considering this package of documents along with my colleagues and hope to take Accessible Streets to Cabinet in the coming months. I hope to have Accessible Streets

ready for public consultation in the first half of 2019. At this time the Cabinet paper and Regulatory Impact Statement will be published on the Ministry of Transport website.

In regard to the information that has been withheld under the Act, I am of the opinion that there are no countervailing considerations that make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to make a complaint about the withholding of information to the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsmen
P O Box 10-152
Wellington

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Julie Anne Genter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'G'.

Hon Julie Anne Genter
Associate Minister of Transport