

31 January 2019

Bob Sharp  
fyi-request-9325-7d277fd4@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: NZT-3551

Dear Bob

Thank you for your email of 30 December 2018 requesting information regarding the use of bikes and/or Go-Karts on the footpath. We recognise you made this request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). As the official information requested in your email is more closely connected with the functions of the NZ Police, the following portion of your request was transferred to them under section 14 of the Act on 11 January 2019:

*'I have ridden my bicycle on the footpath for my own safety, especially on busier roads, and the police have had no interest in enforcing that I ride on the road even though I have a suspicion that it is unlawful. Is there data on people having been dealt to by police due to having ridden a bike on a footpath?'*

As the remainder of your correspondence is related to general information, it has not been considered under the provisions of the Act, and is responded to below.

I can advise it is illegal for Go-Kart's to be used on either a public road or a footpath. Furthermore, the law only allows a bicycle to be ridden on the footpath in the course of delivering newspapers, mail or printed material to letterboxes. The rules and regulations governing the use of footpaths are outlined in the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 (the Rule), clauses 2.13, 6.14, 11.1 and 11.11. These clauses stipulate the type of road users who may or may not operate on a footpath, depending on the circumstances surrounding their application. Enforcement of these regulations is the responsibility of the Police so any legal repercussions will be at their discretion.

There is a range of low-powered devices that New Zealanders use for travel or recreation. Such examples include mobility devices powered by a motor of up to 1500 watts or wheeled recreational vehicles. The intent behind their use on footpaths is that they travel at a proportionate speed to other users and must be operated in a courteous and considerate manner. Given the engine output of a Go-Kart is capable of reaching speeds of up to 90km/h, the wattage and potential speed means they cannot be considered a low powered vehicle.

As Go-Karts have few safety features, they are unable to fit within the vehicle classifications or meet applicable standards to be registered and licensed as a motor vehicle. For this reason, it is illegal for Go-Karts to be used on the road and can therefore only be operated on private property, including racetracks.

The NZ Transport Agency website strives to provide information to answer the most common queries we receive. While questions relating to the use of Go-Karts on a footpath are infrequent, the Transport

Agency would be happy to review the information again should such queries become more prevalent in future.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Amber McGovern-Wilson, Senior Advisor Policy, by email to [Amber.McGovern-Wilson@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:Amber.McGovern-Wilson@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Aitken", is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

**Michael Aitken**

Senior Manager Operational Policy, Planning & Intelligence