

29 January 2019

Withheld under section 7(2)(a)

Dear [Withheld under s

Thank you for your requests made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 10 January 2019. You requested the following information:

- *In response to your request for information about cyclist speed. You have asked for the light timing to be changed.*
- *Council advised that amber length is timed so that any vehicle travelling at the speed limit would be able to safely complete the intersection before the red turned on. Is this not correct?*
- *Any policies the Council has on the stopping distance and times of heavy vehicles.*

I have responded to each of the questions in turn below:

**In response to your request for information about cyclist speed. You have asked for the light timing to be changed.**

Council is required to ensure all road users safety. This includes the design and operational requirements of the traffic signals for all users including pedestrians and cyclists. In order to do this, we comply with the Nationwide Accepted Standards and Regulations as well as the Industry Best Practice. I have attached the Standards, Regulations and Best Practice which are applied in New Zealand by Traffic Signal Practitioners.

In reference to the Victoria intersection, the traffic signal timing for the green, amber/orange and red phases comply with the national standard. Therefore at this stage, we will not be changing the timing.

Council will continue to monitor the intersection including cyclist use in relation to the traffic signal phases. At this stage, we are confident that the intersection on Victoria Street is operating safely and efficiently for all road users.

**Council advised that amber length is timed so that any vehicle travelling at the speed limit would be able to safely complete the intersection before the red turned on. Is this not correct?**

In reference to Victoria Street intersection:

The traffic signal timing is regulated for the green, amber/orange and all-red phases. To comply with the national standard, the amber/orange timing phrase is set at 3 seconds to allow enough time for a vehicle to stop at the stopline and the all-red time is set at 2.5 seconds.

The amber/orange timing allows a vehicle enough time to stop at the stopline following the end of the green display. The all-red timing is to provide a safe clearance time for vehicles to clear the intersection before the start of the next phase.

To help ensure that the traffic signal timing at intersections is safe for cyclists, we refer to Cycling Aspects of Austroads Guides.

In reference to the guide under Austroads, the existing Victoria Street intersection is categorised as mixed environments because some part of Victoria Street has an uphill gradient. Therefore the recommended design operating speed for cyclists is 20km/h.

There is sufficient time to clear the intersection for a cyclist travelling at 20km/h if they have crossed the stopline at the end of the green phase and the start of the amber/orange phase. It is not recommended that cyclists should proceed past the stopline on the amber/orange phase.

Council is confident that the traffic signal timing is operating efficiently and safely for all road users at the Victoria Street intersection.

#### **Any policies the Council has on the stopping distance and times of heavy vehicles.**

Wellington City Council does not have any policies on the stopping distance and times of heavy vehicles. In line with section 17(e) I am refusing this request as the information you have asked for does not exist.

However, Council is required to comply with the Nationwide Accepted Standards and Regulations.

#### **Right of review**

If you disagree with my decision you have the right, under section 27(3) of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review and investigate my decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Thank you for your request and let me know if you are needing further assistance.

Regards,



Ana Nicholls  
**Assurance Advisor**