

MIN-4271 Monthly bus driver update – July 2023

Providing the Minister of Transport with a monthly update on:

- Bus driver shortages
- Progress on all party MoUs and uplifting driver wages by region
- Bus service cancellations by region.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

- The national driver shortfall continues to reduce:

Total PTA reported shortage	
December 2022	860
January 2023	No data available
February 2023	715
March 2023	606
April 2023	564
May 2023	437
June 2023	328
July 2023	237

- 314 drivers are in the process of being recruited and/or trained.
- With the sector agreement and immigration pathway now in place we expect current trends to continue and the driver shortage to be addressed within the coming months. Driver shortage numbers continue to drop by approximately 100 FTEs a month. However, a continued focus on recruitment and retention remains important to build resilience within the sector.

Driver wage increases and MoU progress

- The table on the next page provides an overview of progress by region.
- By way of summary, 12 out of 14 regions have either increased wages or are intending to increase wages. All party MoUs continue to be progressed and CERF funding allocated.

Bus cancellations

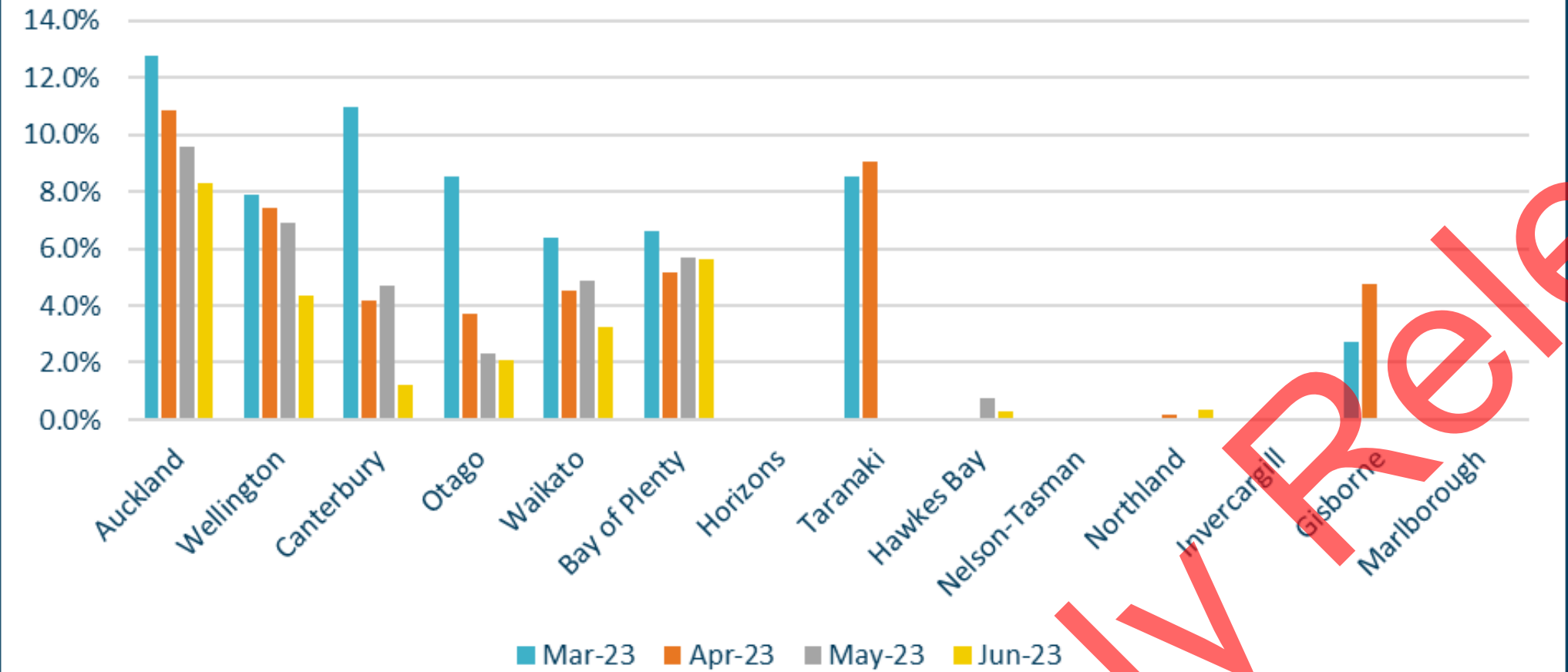
- The graph on the last page provides a summary of bus cancellation trends by region over the last three months to June 2023.
- By way of summary, cancellation rates continue to reduce but remain well above acceptable levels. Cancellation rates are expected to significantly improve as the current cohort of drivers in training come online over the next couple of months.

Will be considered to be withheld in full.

Region	Approx. driver shortfall							Approx. number of drivers recruited but not yet on the road at July 2023	Minimum bus driver hourly wage rate as at July 2023	MoU / Uplift Status	Funding approved to PTAs for 2022/23	Funding Claimed in TIO as at July 2023	Driver Conditions – Are drivers being paid the increased rate
	Dec-22	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	June-23	July-23						
Northland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Section 9(2)(b)(ii)	MoU signed – uplift actioned	\$13,135	\$0	Yes	
Auckland	518	468	377	357	297	227	132		MoU signed - \$28ph uplift actioned, \$30 uplift next steps	\$1,116,701	\$1,116,701	Yes	
Waikato	45	5	5	5*	0	0	0		MoU not signed	\$0	\$0	Yes – without CERF funding	
Bay of Plenty	45	34	39	25	22	0	0		MoU not signed	\$0	\$0	Yes – without CERF funding	
Gisborne	0	6	0	2	0	0	0		MoU signed – uplift actioned	\$16,119	\$16,119	Yes	
Hawke’s Bay	6	5	0	7	0	7	7		MoU not signed	\$0	\$0	N/A	
Taranaki	0	3	0	0	0	0	0		MoU signed – uplift actioned	\$43,523	\$43,523	Yes	
Horizons	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		MoU not signed – uplift currently in progress	\$0	\$0	No	
Greater Wellington	125	120	120	119	121	87	83		MoU not signed – uplift currently in progress	\$0	\$0	NZ Bus – No Mana – No Uzabus – No Tranzit – Yes Tranzurban - Yes	
Nelson and Tasman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		MoU signed – uplift actioned	\$48,277	\$48,277	Yes	
Marlborough	8	0	0	0	1	1	1		MoU not signed – uplift currently in progress	\$0	\$0	No	
Canterbury	60	49	41	41*	30	6	6		MoU signed – uplift actioned	\$588,338	\$588,338	Yes	
Otago	51	25	24	8	12	8	8		MoU signed – uplift actioned	\$892,568	\$892,568	Yes	
Invercargill	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		MoU not signed	\$0	\$0	N/A	
Total	860	715	606	564*	486	328	237	314					

*Where PTAs did not provide data, we have assumed no change from June 2023.

Cancellations per month by public transport authority



Proactively Released