



Nicole Pryor
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Dear Nicole

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email received 7 December 2012 requesting information concerning alcohol interlocks under the Official Information Act 1982.

Your ten requests and my responses are detailed below:

1. How many people have participated in the alcohol interlock programme in New Zealand?

Alcohol interlock sentences have been available to the courts since September 10 2012. As at 8 January, 26 offenders have had an alcohol interlock sentence imposed by the courts.

These offenders are required to serve a minimum licence suspension period of three months before being eligible to apply for an alcohol interlock licence. Four of the 26 offenders have served their three month suspension and two of those four offenders have applied for and been issued with their alcohol interlock licence.

2. How many people have applied to be part of the alcohol interlock programme in New Zealand?

Please refer to the response for question one.

3. What areas of New Zealand have participants/applicants in the programme come from?

Area/District Court	Number of offenders
North Shore	2
Auckland	10
Henderson	2
South Auckland (Wiri)	1
Tauranga	3
Hastings	1
Porirua	4
Upper Hutt	1
Lower Hutt	1
Christchurch	1

4. What age group are the participants?

At the date of conviction, the age of offenders was as follows:

Age group	Number of offenders
Under 25	5
25-34	10
35-44	7
45 and over	4

5. Who monitors the test results that come through?

Participants on the alcohol interlock programme (i.e. those who have an alcohol interlock licence and who also have an alcohol interlock device fitted in their vehicle) have the data downloaded once a month by one of two providers that have contracted installers located around New Zealand. The data is encrypted and uploaded to a secure webportal for the NZTA to access at any time.

Test results are reviewed by the NZTA when a participant applies to exit the programme. The purpose of reviewing these test results is to determine whether or not the participant meets the exit criteria outlined in S65A (2)(iv) of the Land Transport Act 1998. The criteria are:

- the person must have held the alcohol interlock licence for at least 12 months; and
- have six months violation free data immediately prior to their application; or
- have three months violation free data immediately prior to their application and have completed an alcohol assessment

Applicants who meet the specified exit criteria are approved by NZTA to transition to the next step of the programme which is to obtain a zero alcohol licence.

Comprehensive information on the alcohol interlock programme is available on the NZTA's website at: www.nzta.govt.nz/licence/photo/alcohol/interlock.html

6. How many staff members from NZTA are tasked/will be tasked with dealing with programme participants?

The interlock programme will be managed by the NZTA's Medical Section, within its current staffing resource of 16 – at this stage no additional staff are required.

7. How does the NZTA monitor the programme participants?

Please refer to the response provided to question five and the NZTA weblink.

8. How will success of the programme be gauged?

Introducing alcohol interlock devices and alcohol interlock licences to New Zealand is an initiative of the Safer Journeys road safety strategy and aims to reduce the impact of drink driving on New Zealand roads.

Participants that have successfully completed the alcohol interlock stage of the programme transition to the zero alcohol licence which has a mandatory period of three years. Success will be

measured, in part, by the lack of alcohol-related driving offences committed by alcohol interlock licence holders.

9. What is the success rate of the interlock licence to date?

NZTA records indicate that the two people with an alcohol interlock licence have not been convicted of any alcohol-related driving offences since being issued with their alcohol interlock licence.

10. What is the procedure if the participant can not afford to keep the alcohol interlock licence for the full 12 months?

The applicant pays a one-off fee of \$200 to obtain an alcohol interlock licence; the licence is usually valid for 10 years i.e. there are no ongoing costs to hold the licence.

However, there is a monthly fee to lease the alcohol interlock device. Both alcohol interlock device suppliers offer a reduced fee to those who hold a community service card.

The NZTA does not provide any additional funding in the Safer Journeys road safety strategy to financially assist participants.

If you would like to discuss this reply, please contact me by email at tony.marlow@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on 06 953 7006.

Yours sincerely



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