

22 July 2019

Jo Lines-MacKenzie
Jo.Lines-MacKenzie@stuff.co.nz

REF: OIA-5390

Dear Jo,

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 2 July 2019 to the NZ Transport Agency requesting the following information under the Official Act 1982 (the Act):

This is an Official Information Act request for the ages of drivers in New Zealand.

Could I please get the number of licenced car drivers in New Zealand for the past 10 years? ie 2009 through to 2019

Could I please get the number who are in their teens, 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, 100's for every year as well for the past 10 years and into years?

Could that also be broken down into gender?

If it is possible for that to be in regions but understand that it might not be possible?

Could I please get what is the longest someone has held their license for?

In the Driver Licence Register (DLR), there are three options available for gender selection – “Male”, “Female”, and “Indeterminate”.

I have withheld the following parts of your request under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons:

- Counts of either of male and female where the count of drivers is less than four, and
- Counts of drivers of ‘Indeterminate’ gender by year, age group and region.

This information was withheld because disclosing small counts, especially if combined with other sources of information, may lead to the identification of individuals and personal details about them. We have therefore suppressed counts of either male or female drivers where the count is less than four, and we have provided annualised data for drivers of ‘Indeterminate’ gender.

In response to the first four questions regarding the number of licence drivers, the data you requested has been provided to you in the attached spreadsheet (Attachment 1 - OIA-5390 - Jo Lines-MacKenzie). Two tables have been provided to you:

- Table 1 shows the number of male and female licenced drivers in New Zealand annually, broken down by region, age group, gender. Where counts less than four have occurred in the

data in the male/female breakdown table, the number has been suppressed to protect the privacy of natural persons.

- Table 2 shows the number of licenced drivers in New Zealand annually with indeterminate chosen as a gender in the DLR. No further breakdown beyond annualised data is provided as the count of drivers may be less than four. This is to protect the privacy of natural persons.

It is important to note the following in relation to the information provided. This information is also provided to you in the attached spreadsheet:

- Data is taken as a snapshot of data from DLR at 30 June 2009 - 2019 and is current at 10 July 2019.
- The age of a driver is calculated from the 30 June of each reported year from their entered birth date. Drivers with no birth date entered are excluded from this dataset.
- Only drivers aged 16 years and over are included in the data.
- Data includes all licence stages (learner, restricted, full) and all licence classes (Class 1-6).
- Address fields for regionalising data are free text. Mistakes may occur with these types of entries (e.g. mis-spellings, wrong selection type).
- In the DLR, there are three options available for gender selection – “Male”, “Female”, and “Indeterminate”. An acceptable form of documentation confirming the gender that a driver wishes to record on their licence needs to be provided.
- Where counts less than four have occurred in the data in the male/female breakdown, the number has been suppressed to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- Due to the small population size of drivers selecting “Indeterminate” as a gender, data has only been annualised to protect the privacy of natural persons.

At 4 July 2019, the longest someone has held their licence for is 85 years. This is based on the earliest known record that was recorded in the DLR from May 1999. Records of licences held prior to May 1999 (booklet or paper licence) may or may not be recorded against the DLR in full. The time a licence is held is calculated against the start date of the licence recorded against a licence holder as at 4 July 2019 and does not take into consideration any period of time where a current licence was not held, for example if the licence holder was disqualified or had let the licence expire.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision withhold this information. You can find the contact details for the Ombudsman at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

If you would like to discuss this reply with the NZ Transport Agency, please contact Andrew Knacksteadt, Senior Media Manager, by email to andrew.knacksteadt@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Galina Mitchelhill
Senior Manager, Research & Analytics