

25 February 2019

Phil Pennington
Radio New Zealand
Phil.Pennington@rnz.co.nz

REF: OIA-4499

Dear Phil

Thank you for your email of 6 December 2018 requesting further information regarding the 1,038 heavy vehicles that underwent certificate of fitness (CoF) tests at VTNZ Waiheke Island (VTNZ Waiheke Bus Company) during the period the site used an alternate brake testing method from the Roller Brake Machine (RBM).

Your request consists of the following:

Re this just now from MP Kaye's office:

"NZTA records show that a total of 1,038 heavy vehicles underwent CoF tests at VTNZ Waiheke Island during the period that the site was using the alternate brake testing method. 811 of these vehicles have since undergone a subsequent CoF test using a Roller Brake Machine (RBM). 11. During the week beginning 29 October 2018, the NZTA wrote to the owners of the remaining 227 heavy vehicles tested at the Waiheke Island site, which have not had a subsequent CoF inspection.

12. We have informed the owners of those vehicles that VTNZ Waiheke Island has agreed to re-test the brakes on these vehicles, using an RBM, free of charge. While the re-tests are not compulsory, this offer is being made to provide vehicle owners with the assurance that their vehicles' brakes have been tested to the required standard.

13. The NZTA is encouraging affected vehicle owners to contact VTNZ Waiheke Island on 0800 88 88 69 to arrange for their vehicles to be re-tested, or if they have any concerns."

Can TA pls provide figures to RNZ re those 811 of these vehicles that underwent an RBM for their CoF (and any of the 227 subsequent to late Oct) that show:

- How many failed the RBM brake test in any way*
- How many of the total 1038 have been told to get their brakes repaired since the RBM was reinstalled*
- How many had a braking efficiency result using the RBM that varied by more than 20% from the result their previous COF's Tapley test had returned? For these, pls then specify in each case what the Tapley efficiency result was versus the RBM result*

Your request has been considered under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

In accordance with your first two questions, when a vehicle fails a CoF, a generic fault code is recorded based on the failed component (e.g. lights, brakes) the fault code can be used multiple times in one

inspection and can be for a number of different factors (e.g. performance or condition criteria) as such, NZ Transport Agency records do not specify if a vehicle failed on the RBM. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information requested, does not exist.

In order to provide you with reasonable assistance under the terms of the Act, the updated figures on the vehicles that underwent inspections during the period that VTNZ Waiheke Bus Company used an alternative brake testing method can be found in **attachment one**.

Upon retrieving these figures, it was discovered the previously released figures were interpreted incorrectly. During the period that the RBM was not operating at VTNZ Waiheke Bus Company, they carried out 1038 inspections on 512 unique vehicles; the original information released was interpreted as 1038 unique vehicles.

To provide context regarding your third question, comparing an RBM test with a decelerometer (Tapley Brake Meter) is difficult to do, as any comparison would be between a dynamic test and a static test, however the brake readings from either test are only recorded on the CoF check sheet which is held by the inspecting organisation for the life of the inspection. The brake readings are not captured in the Motor Vehicle Register meaning the Transport Agency does not hold this information. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act because the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the NZ Transport Agency, please contact me by email to Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on 04 894 6285.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Knackstedt
Senior Manager – Media