

13 February 2019

George Block
Reporter
Otago Daily Times
george.block@odt.co.nz
REF: OIA-4587

Dear George

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 14 January 2019 requesting further information relating to the NZ Transport Agency's recent statement about a trailer dispute raised by Mr Gillander. Your request consists of the following:

On 7 January 2019, NZTA spokesman Andrew Knackstedt issued the following response to questions from the ODT regarding a trailer dispute in Dunedin:

The Transport Agency urges anyone with concerns about Warrants of Fitness or the safety of any vehicle, including trailers, to bring the information to us so that we can investigate. The Transport Agency will investigate the specific issues which Mr Gillander has raised with these rented trailers. The Transport Agency is also concerned that some older trailers are being re-registered as new and issued with three-yearly WoFs, and we are looking into whether this issue is more widespread. Addressing the issue will likely require a change to the Vehicle Standards Compliance Rule, and we will be working with the Ministry of Transport on this. Regardless of a trailer's age or the length of its WoF, vehicle owners are responsible for ensuring that they are up to WoF standard at all times.

I am writing to request all reports, briefings, meeting minutes, emails and other communications relating to the investigations and inquiries outlined above, including the communications that preceded writing of the above statement.

I would also like to request the outcome and/or progress of the investigation and inquiries mentioned in the statement, as well as all communications between the NZTA and the Ministry of Transport on this issue.

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

The following documents fall within the scope of your request and are enclosed:

- Attachment 1: A copy of the full investigation file regarding the specific issues Mr Gillander raised;

- Attachment 2: A copy of all communications that preceded the Transport Agency's statement in response to the ODT dated 7 January 2019.

Certain information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons; and under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the free and frank expression of opinion. With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

The Transport Agency has established that a regulation or legislation change is required in order to prevent the ability for older trailers to be re-registered as new. As an interim measure, the Transport Agency will be looking at options for a short-term process fix.

To date, no further reports, briefings, meetings, or communication between the Transport Agency and the Ministry of Transport has occurred regarding this matter since the response was issued. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information does not exist.

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

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

Yours sincerely



Brett Aldridge

Interim General Manager – Regulatory