

25 March 2019

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

REF: OIA-4743

Dear Phil

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 25 February 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *A list of any reports or advice TA has received at any time since 2014 about any of the safety issues that might or would relate to electric scooters or electric bikes*
- *Any actual report or advice or communication TA received or provided about any of the safety issues that might or do relate to Lime scooters, in the run-up to its decision in September 2018 to change e-scooters' status as a motor vehicle*

Through its Research Programme, the NZ Transport Agency invests in research that plays a critical role in contributing to the government's goals for transport. In July 2017, the Transport Agency released Research Report 621: *Regulations and safety for electric bicycles and other low-powered vehicles* which is publicly available at www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/research/reports/621/.

The Transport Agency received a further report on low powered vehicle safety from an overseas organisation in January 2017. As the report was intended for internal use and shared with the Agency on a confidential basis, it has been withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information where making the information available would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, and it is in the public interest that such information continue to be supplied.

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.

In regard to the second part of your request, the Transport Agency did not receive any report, advice or communication about safety issues that might or do relate to Lime Scooters in the run up to the September 2018 notice in the *New Zealand Gazette* which declared e-scooters not to be a motor vehicle. As the information doesn't exist, this part of your request has been refused under section 18(e) of the Act.

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

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Aitken", is centered below the text "Yours sincerely". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael Aitken

Senior Manager Operational Policy, Planning and Intelligence