

4 July 2019

Emile Donovan  
Radio NZ  
[Emile.Donovan@rnz.co.nz](mailto:Emile.Donovan@rnz.co.nz)

REF: OIA-5290

Dear Emile,

### **Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email to the NZ Transport Agency on 12 June 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Act 1982 (the Act):

- *The total number of Class 1 driving license tests undertaken in New Zealand, per year, over the past seven years*
  - o *Broken down by license type (e.g. learner's/restricted/full), as well as totals.*
  - o *And each of these license types broken down into pass/fail, as well as totals.*
  - o *Also a percentage of pass/fail, by broken down into license types, as well as totals.*
  - o *The total number of tests passed on re-sitting the test, broken down by license type and what number test it was (e.g. 10 people passed their full test on the second attempt; three people passed on their third attempt; etc.)*
- *The total number of driving license tests undertaken by each individual drivers licensing agency, broken down into license type and the results (i.e. VTNZ Manukau – 100 full licence tests, 50 pass, 50 fail, 50 percent pass, 50 percent fail).*
  - o *The total number of tests broken down by whether it was the first or subsequent test, again broken down into license type and the results.*
- *Also the total amount of revenue each licensing agency earned directly from license test fees, broken down by license type, and broken down according to whether the attempt was the first attempt, or a subsequent attempt (there is no need to say whether it's their second, third or fourth in this section – simply first, or subsequent is fine).*

The data you requested regarding the numbers of driving licence tests taken, past or failed is provided to you in the attached spreadsheet (OIA-5290 Emile Donovan RNZ Media Final).

It is important to note the following which is also provided to you in the attached spreadsheet for your convenience:

- Data was extracted from the Driver Licence Register (DLR) on 13 June 2019 and is current as at 12 June 2019.
- Tests are limited to new applications sat under the graduated driver licensing system.
- Tests are limited to tests sat with the following results:
  - Pass
  - Fail
  - Stopped
- For the purposes of this report the test result "Stopped" is treated as a fail result.
- Tests are limited to the following types:
  - Class 1 (motor cars and light motor vehicles) learner
  - Class 1 (motor cars and light motor vehicles) restricted
  - Class 1 (motor cars and light motor vehicles) full
- Tests are limited to those sat between 1 January 2012 to date 12 June 2019.
- Attempt number is determined by the number of previous tests a driver has sat of the same class and stage on a new licence application.
  - Tests sat prior to 1999 may not be recorded in DLR and attempt counts will not be accurate where such tests are not recorded.
  - Some instances exist where a driver has sat and passed a test and then sat subsequent tests of that class and stage.
  - "First attempt" indicates the attempt number is one.
  - "Subsequent test" indicates the attempt number is greater than one.
- To protect the privacy of individuals, attempt numbers between 6 and 9, and those of 10 or more, have been grouped together.
- Counts by site do not contain tests sat prior to 1 January 2012
  - A "first test" corresponding to a "subsequent test" is not included in this data if the "first test" was conducted prior to 1 January 2012
- Where a testing site is not recorded in DLR the site is listed as "Site unknown".
- Where fewer than three testing officers have conducted a test at a testing site the counts for the tests conducted by these officers at these sites have been grouped as "Small sites" in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- Where the first, or subsequent, attempt pass or fail count is fewer than 4 for a site, these have been instead grouped together into "Site unknown".

In relation to the second part of your request regarding revenue from driver licence testing, we have interpreted your request to be in relation to the financial amount the Transport Agency pays agents to provide theory and/or practical test services. The current Service Delivery contracts with the Automobile Association and Vehicle Testing New Zealand for driver licensing are due to expire on 30 June 2020. At that time, procurement for the contract will be tendered on the Government Electronic Tendering Service (GETS). In order not to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the existing companies during the tender process, I am refusing this part of your request under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse your request. You can find the contact details for the Ombudsman at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Galina Mitchelhill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Galina Mitchelhill**  
Senior Manager, Research & Analytics