

29 July 2019

Phil Pennington
Radio NZ
Phil.Pennington@rnz.co.nz

REF: OIA-5391

Dear Phil,

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

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

- 1. The number of fatal or serious injury involving a vehicle with a non-current WoF, and the percentage of the total of such crashes that these make up, for each year or part-year since 2014 till now*
- 2. The same as above but for non-current CoFs*
- 3. any evidence TA is aware of that would support a connection between the increase in light vehicle warrant of fitness offences and the increase in the percentage of fatal or serious injury crashes involving a vehicle with a non-current warrant of fitness*
- 4. Same as above for non-current CoFs*
- 5. The same as above re numbers and percentage and any evidence, but where any HPMV is involved*
- 6. The latest NZTA research - or research made available to it, say from MOT - about why the NZ road toll has been going up*

You further clarified the definition of “offences” on bullet point 3 and 4 as follows.

So it would be any WOF offence, which would primarily be having an expired WOF (Im not sure if there are other WOF-type offences, bu if there are it wd cover those too)

Re the evidence link, my reading of the selcom question is that it's about any link b/w crashes and un-WOFed or unCOFed vehicles – or WOFed vehicles that should not have had WOFs but did and there was a bad crash, like the Dargaville seatbelt case.

So this wd cover both those scenarios – where a vehicle in a bad crash is found afterward to have either no WOF or COF, or that it should not have had a WOF or COF but did

The data you requested for parts 1, 2, and 5 of your request is provided to you in the attached document (Attachment 1 - OIA-5391).

I will answer the rest of your questions in turn as follows.

- 3. any evidence TA is aware of that would support a connection between the increase in light vehicle warrant of fitness offences and the increase in the percentage of fatal or serious injury crashes involving a vehicle with a non-current warrant of fitness**
- 4. Same as above for non-current CoFs**
- 5. ... and any evidence, but where HPMV is involved**

With regards to your request on any evidence, we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) that the Transport Agency does not hold the information and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department.

In order to draw a conclusion that vehicle fault contributed or caused a serious or fatal crash, it would require a high level of available evidence and a full police investigation. This information is not normally contained within a traffic crash report that the Transport Agency receives. Vehicle warrant of fitness (WoF) status is a compliance issue, where Police will be primarily responsible for the full investigation. If the Transport Agency becomes aware of any sub-standard inspections resulting in a fatal or serious accident, we follow this up with the relevant Inspecting Organisation.

Similar with the Vehicle WoF, vehicle certificate of fitness (CoF) status is a compliance issue. In this instance, independent of recorded crash factors and CoF offences are determined by police. However, heavy vehicle and High Productivity Motor Vehicle (HPMV) faults have not been identified as a major contributing factor in fatal and serious crashes involving trucks and buses.

- 6. The latest NZTA research - or research made available to it, say from MOT - about why the NZ road toll has been going up**

The following page on the Ministry of Transport website provides a number of reports, see in particular the March 2017 report under the heading "Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis of the New Zealand number of road deaths": <https://www.transport.govt.nz/mot-resources/road-safety-resources/road-safety-analysis/>

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse parts of your request. 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 Manager, by email to andrew.knacksteadt@nzta.govt.nz.

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