

7 August 2020

Caroline Williams
Auckland Reporter
caroline.williams@stuff.co.nz

REF: OIA-6924

Dear Caroline

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 24 July 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982:

I would like to know what personalised number plate applications the NZTA rejected between 1 January 2018 and 30 June 2020.

For each rejected number plate, please include:

- The date the application was received*
- The reason why it was rejected.*

Please specify if the number plate was requested multiple times.

KiwiPlates hold a contract with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to sell personalised plates and have the delegated authority to make the decision to approve or reject plate combinations, based on Waka Kotahi guidelines. KiwiPlates does not record rejected plate combinations when making independent decisions. It has been asked to keep these records in the future.

I am therefore part-refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act because the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

However, find enclosed *Attachment 1 - Rejected Plates* which shows where KiwiPlates have consulted Waka Kotahi for a decision on particular plate combinations, and the plate combinations have been rejected. The date shown is the date of consultation. Some explanatory information is given for each of the three rejection reasons below.

Offensive includes plates that could be interpreted to be referencing:

- violence
- illegal activity
- discrimination based on race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation/notations, or against any individual
- disturbing the public peace or the maintenance of law and order
- any offensive, abusive or derogatory message, or
- references to public or well-known figures.

Confusing includes plates that may not be easy to read in an emergency (whether intended to confuse or not). This can include character sets with similar-looking characters, or plates that could be confused with another combination when attached to a vehicle upside-down.

Technical includes plates that reference Government or Crown entities, plates that are similar to Crown or Diplomatic plate combinations or attempts to circumvent Waka Kotahi policy relating to the reuse of old black and silver plates on vehicles that have since had reflectorised plates issued.

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.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Matt Rush, Customer Advisor - Ministerials, by email to matthew.rush@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Charlton', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michelle Charlton
Senior Manager, Customer Services