

3 November 2020

Rosie Gordon
Reporter
MediaWorks News
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REF: OIA-7153

Dear Rosie

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of Wednesday, 16 September 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *How many workers on the Transmission Gully project failed to pass drug tests each year between 2014 through 2019.*
- *How many workers on the Transmission Gully project failed to pass drug tests in 2020 so far (1st of Jan to 16th September 2020).*
- *How many workers in total have been stood down from the Transmission Gully project for failing to pass a drug test since the project started in 2014?*

The following lists how many workers on the Transmission Gully project returned a non-negative drug test result each year between 2014 through to 2019:

- *2014: No drug tests undertaken*
- *2015: 1*
- *2016: 5*
- *2017: 24*
- *2018: 30*
- *2019: 24*

In the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020 the number of non-negative test results was 13. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has not been provided with any drug test results post-March 2020 and does not hold that information.

To provide further context, the table below includes figures for the number of workers, including contractors, inducted for the project for each year:

2015	1132
2016	1355
2017	1506
2018	1170
2019	1198
2020 to date (as at 29/10/2020)	712

All new employees and contractors who are being inducted onto the Transmission Gully Project are required to pass a pre-employment drug and alcohol test prior to their induction. Random testing is also carried out regularly on-site.

To provide some context around the number of non-negative test results, in 2019 a total of 1,324 drug tests were undertaken. In 2019, the non-negative rate for tests carried out at Transmission Gully was 1.4%, compared with an average non-negative rate across the construction industry of 4.5*.

**Figure supplied by TDDA – The Drug Detection Agency, based on non-negative results returned from random testing.*

It should also be noted that non-negative results are not the same as 'positive' results. All non-negative results at Transmission Gully are sent to a laboratory for confirmation testing, and these tests can return a negative result. Of the 24 non-negative test results in 2019, positive results were confirmed for 19.

In line with CPBHEB Health and Safety and employment policies, any worker or employee who returns a non-negative drug test result is automatically stood down.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Jasmine Higginson, Lower North Island Media Manager, by email to jasmine.higginson@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (04) 903 2315.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Thackwray', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Thackwray
Senior Manager – Project Delivery