

26 January 2022

Mark Quinlivan  
Digital News Producer  
Newshub Digital  
mark\_quinlivan@discovery.com

REF: OIA-9159

Dear Mark

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

Thank you for your email of 1 December 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. The number of New Zealanders who sat their full driver licences in a manual transmission car in the past 10 years. Could this please be broken down by year? (2011 - 2021)*
- 2. The number of New Zealanders who sat their restricted licences in a manual transmission car in the past 10 years. Could this also please be broken down by year?*
- 3. Could both the above also please be broken down by how many people sat their licences in manual transmission car in each region?*

The following document falls within the scope of your request and is enclosed:

- Attachment 1 - OIA-9159 - Mark Quinlivan (request).xlsx

The data in Attachment 1 should be considered in conjunction with the caveats provided on the first tab of the spreadsheet.

Please note that the Driver Licence Register (DLR) does not specifically record information on whether a test was sat in a manual transmission vehicle, however it can record information on whether an automatic transmission vehicle was used. Therefore, for the purpose of this request, tests that have been entered with no indication that an automatic transmission vehicle was used are assumed to have been completed in a manual transmission vehicle.

This is especially important in relation to the information provided in response to question 1. As full driver licence holders are able to operate any transmission vehicle, regardless of the type of vehicle they conducted their test in, there is no requirement for testing officers conducting the test (or agents entering the test result) to enter whether an automatic transmission vehicle was used to sit the test.

For a restricted licence on the other hand, it is a requirement for testing officers or agents to record whether the test was completed using an automatic transmission vehicle in order to trigger the 'automatic only' condition that appears on a person's restricted driver licence card (whereby they are only able to operate automatic vehicle on that licence).

In accordance with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will be published on our external website shortly.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Manager Media, by email at [andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.knackstedt@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 and Analytics