

19 May 2023

██████████  
Digital Political Reporter  
Newshub  
██████████@discovery.com

REF: OIA-12487

Dear ██████████

### Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for email of 20 April 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *All correspondence held by Waka Kotahi, including between staff members and with ministers' offices, about the public release of updated costs for drivers' licence tests this month. I am looking for all discussion about how this information is communicated to the public.*
- *All modelling about potential savings members of the public may make as a result of changes to the driver's licence.*

All correspondence between Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, Te Manatū Waka – Ministry of Transport and the office of Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport, on how the updated costs for driver licence tests would be communicated to the public is enclosed as *Attachment 1: Email Correspondence*.

Some phone numbers have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order protect the privacy of natural persons.

Early draft versions of Hon Michael Wood's press release have been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i). This section allows for the withholding of information in order to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty

I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

The calculation used to determine the savings for drivers to get through the Graduated Driver Licence System (GDLS) is enclosed as *Attachment 2: Class 1 Licence Savings*. The calculation works out the difference between the current revenue and future revenue we can anticipate with our forecast

volumes. It takes the current average cost per applicant (our estimated current revenue) and the proposed fee, and multiplies them both by forecast volumes to determine what the movement in revenue will be. The difference is then divided by the current revenue to create the percentage movement from current revenue.

The calculation estimates savings of \$5.9m for Class 1 licence holders. The full savings for all driver licence fees would be substantially more if we were to incorporate savings associated with getting an endorsement, conversions of overseas licences to New Zealand licences, licence and endorsement renewals/reinstatements and replacing applicable endorsement ID cards.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold information. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Andy Knackstedt, Senior Media Manager by email to [andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz) or by phone on 021 276 3222.

Yours sincerely



**Neil Cook**

Deputy Director of Land Transport