

24 July 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Newshub

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-12979

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 26 June 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

We are after data showing:

- 1. The total number of potholes in New Zealand in 2023 (until June 25), 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018?*
- 2. How many have been repaired by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency in 2023 (until June 25), 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018?*

Could we also get a breakdown of the total number of potholes in the Northland, Auckland Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin regions and also how many have been repaired in these regions?

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is unable to provide this information as it is not held in a readily available format. Waka Kotahi uses Network Outcomes Contracts (NOC) as well as a maintenance Alliance model to deliver state highway maintenance. Each contractor responsible for a NOC area is required to carry out routine inspection/patrol runs of the state highway network at intervals. However, the exact number and type of road defects, such as potholes, identified at these inspections and repaired as part of the routine pavement maintenance are not centrally recorded.

I am therefore refusing your request for the total number of potholes in New Zealand under section 18(g) of the Act, as this information is not held by Waka Kotahi and there is no reason to believe that this information is held by another department.

Please refer to the attached document which contains data on the number of pothole repairs attended to. Some attendances may include the repair of more than one pothole. The data in the spreadsheet should be read in conjunction with the caveats on the first page of the spreadsheet.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at 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 Manager, Media, by email to 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