

22 January 2021

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-7547

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your emails of 7 January 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- a. For the 2019 and 2020 years (to date, if not all available), could I please have a breakdown of restricted licence test pass rates by testing station, broken down into ethnic groups? For this purpose I am happy if you use the 6 major ethnic groups as used by Statistics New Zealand (European, Maori, Pacific Peoples, Asian, Middle Eastern/Latin American/African and Other Ethnicity)*
- b. Could I also get a breakdown of the gender, age brackets and ethnicities of the driver testing officers? 10 year age brackets are fine.*
- c. Could I please add to the below a request for a breakdown of pass rates by testing officer at VTNZ Silverdale? There is a community concern that one officer may have especially low pass rates.*

A spreadsheet containing restricted licence practical test pass rates broken down by testing station (*OIA-7547 Response.xlsx ('Data 1' worksheet)*) is provided to you with this letter.

When there are two testing officers or less available at a testing station, the pass rates information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons because this information could be used to identify personal information about an individual.

Driver licence applications do not record ethnicity, so this information is not recorded in the Driver Licence Register (DLR). The ethnicity of restricted licence test candidates, therefore, is not held by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, and I have no grounds for believing that the requested information is held by another organisation. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act.

A spreadsheet containing information on gender and ten-year age brackets for Restricted driver testing officers in New Zealand relating to the first request (*OIA-7547 Response.xlsx ('Data 2' worksheet)*) is attached along with this letter.

Ethnicity of testing officers is not collected on testing endorsement applications and are therefore not recorded in the DLR. This part of your request, therefore, is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act

as the information is not held by Waka Kotahi and I have no grounds for believing that the requested information is held by another organisation.

Information relating to the breakdown of the pass rates for each testing officer at VTNZ Silverdale is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of each testing officer.

I understand that you have concerns regarding a specific testing officer allegedly having lower pass rates than others at VTNZ Silverdale. VTNZ conducts practical driver tests on behalf of Waka Kotahi. If you would like to raise your concerns about a testing officer employed by VTNZ, I encourage you to contact VTNZ directly by completing a form on its website: <https://vtnz.co.nz/contact-us/>.

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

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold certain information and refuse some parts of this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

According to the policy of Waka Kotahi, this response will be published on the external website soon.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Waka Kotahi, please contact Kerry Greig, Manager Data Services, by email to kerry.greig@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Galina Mitchelhill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Galina Mitchelhill

Senior Manager, Research and Analytics