

7 September 2022

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-10825

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 16 August 2022 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I will address each part of your request in turn.

...a simple list of the three-letter licences plate combinations that are not / will not be used (e.g. FUK)

Depending on the vehicle type, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has three different plate styles known as motorcycle, trailer/caravan and general purpose. I understand that Ministerial Services contacted you on 1 September 2022 to seek clarification on your request and subsequently you confirmed that you require information on general plates (standard motor vehicles) only.

The information you have requested is provided in the enclosed attachment. The data should be considered in line with the caveats below.

As a general policy, all plates that show the letter 'I', 'O', 'V' or 'X' are automatically excluded from production for the following reasons:

Letter excluded	Reason for exclusion
I	Easily confused with the numeral 1
O	Easily confused with the numeral 0
V	Used for visiting overseas vehicles only
X	Used for trade plates only

Furthermore, any combination of letters will be considered against the following guidelines to make sure plates are not deemed to be:

- offensive
- derogatory
- obscene
- profane
- promoting violence, discrimination or bias against race, age, religious or ethical belief, ancestry, place of origin, citizenship, sexual origin, family or marital status and disability or handicap

...and why (e.g. obscenity).

Waka Kotahi does not record an individual reason against each plate sequence to be excluded. All letter sequences are measured against the guidelines provided above and are excluded for one of those reasons. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by Waka Kotahi, nor is it held by another government agency.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to partially refuse your 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 Carissa Bradley, Team Leader, Exemptions and Registers Integrity, by email to carissa.bradley@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Hardiman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sue Hardiman

Senior Manager Vehicle and Driver Licensing