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21 March 2022

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-9582

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 22 February 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

In your Levin to Shannon consultation information, it is claimed "speed is the factor most likely to determine whether anyone is killed".

Please send me the evidence backing up this claim.

Speed is a factor in approximately 60 percent of the fatal car crashes in New Zealand. Additionally, crashes that involve road users travelling above the calculated Safe and Appropriate Speed for the road which the crash occurs on account for around 71 percent of the crashes that cause serious or minor injuries on our roads. These figures are cited from the 2022 Journal of Road safety. You can read more about this here: doi.org/10.33492/JRS-33-1.

The analysis confirms the very strong relationship between speed and crash risk, and that higher speed is associated with an increased occurrence and severity of road crashes. You can read more about this research at: www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/speed-crash-risk.pdf

Furthermore, there are limits to how much force the human body can withstand in a crash. The risk of death and serious injury increases exponentially with the increase in speed. Further information about this can be found here: www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/zero-road-deaths.pdf

As the information you have requested is publicly available, we are obliged to refuse this request under section 18(d) of the Act, that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available:

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

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.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact me by email to fabian.marsh@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'F Marsh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fabian Marsh
Senior Manager Road Safety