

12 June 2023

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REF: OIA-12722

Dear ██████████

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 22 May 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

In order to perform a research project on the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that result from practicing people to pass a practical driving test, we need to know the approximate number of people who take practical driving tests every year. Furthermore, we need to know the average greenhouse gas emissions produced by each car in New Zealand per hour. This allows us to calculate the amount of greenhouse gas emissions caused by driving education. In our search on the internet, we were unable to find a reliable source of information on the number of people taking practical tests yearly and the greenhouse gas emissions each car emits on an hourly basis. I would appreciate it if you could provide me with a source to find reliable data in this regard.

We are refusing your request for *the average greenhouse gas emissions produced by each car in New Zealand per hour* under section 18(g) of the Act, as this information is not held by Waka Kotahi and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another department. There is however some information on CO2 emissions available on the Ministry of Transport website at this link that might be of some assistance: <https://www.transport.govt.nz/statistics-and-insights/fleet-statistics/sheet/light-motor-vehicle-registrations>

Please refer to the attached document which contains information on the number of people sitting practical driving tests. The data in the spreadsheet should be read in conjunction with the caveats on the first page of the spreadsheet.

The driving component of a restricted licence test takes approximately 45 minutes and covers an average of 18km. For full licence tests or on road safety tests, the driving component takes approximately 20 minutes and cover an average of 10km.

Driver training is not mandated therefore we do not have any records around this. The Class 1 restricted licence test, however, is adopted from the Australian test which recommends 120-hour trainings prior to booking a test.

The AA or the NZ institute of Driving Educators are organisations that contract out driver training to driving instructors. It may be helpful to contact them directly for guidance around the average number of lessons required, time spent and/or distance travelled in training novice drivers.

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 Kerry Greig, Manager, Data Services, by email to kerry.greig@nzta.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Galina Mitchellhill
Senior Manager, Research and Analytics