

7 August 2024

██████████
██
Radio New Zealand
██

REF: OIA-15882

Dear ██████████

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your emails of 15 July 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Could I please request data on the number of passenger vehicles that have failed their Warrant of Fitness over the last five years, broken down into year, region, type of car (ideally something along the lines of SUV, Utility Vehicle, Van or smaller cars).

Could this data please be provided in excel format and searchable.

And:

Sorry I forgot to add- I want data on passenger vehicles that have failed their Warrant of Fitness over the last five years due to the headlights being assessed as too bright.

And:

I would also like to request data on how many crash reports over the last five years have included headlights and dazzling as part of the reason for the crash, along with what area each crash happened.

We are unable to provide information on whether headlamps were failed for being too bright as this information is not recorded in the Motor Vehicle Register (MVR). The MVR records all Warrant of Fitness (WoF) light faults as "LI – lights".

I am therefore required to refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

We can, however, advise that there are many reasons why an inspector could record a light fault. These include when a headlamp is:

- when switched on, emitting a light that is not substantially white or amber
- not approximately equal in colour or intensity from the other lamp in a pair
- not steady

- not bright enough to illuminate the road ahead – for example, due to modification, deterioration or an incorrect light source
- too bright – for example, due to the fitment of an HID or LED conversion kit or other incorrect light source (see also the reason for rejection below)
- retrofitted with a type of light source other than that specified by the vehicle manufacturer or the headlamp manufacturer – for example, a headlamp designed for a halogen bulb is fitted with any other type of light source such as an HID or LED bulb, or any other light source such as LED strips or non-OEM angel eyes.

The information regarding reasons for lights failing their inspection is only recorded on the individual physical check sheets that are retained by each inspecting organisation and would need to be manually checked for the information you are requesting.

With regard to the other substantive part of your request, regarding crashes, the following document outlines the information requested and is enclosed:

- Attachment 1 – Crash data all regions 2019-2024 due to bright headlights.

In accordance with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) policy, this response will soon be published on our website with personal details removed.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse parts of 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 NZTA, please contact Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager, Media by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'H' and 'P' that are interconnected, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Henry Pretorius

Acting Senior Manager, Research and Analytics