

26 November 2024

s9(2)(f)(iv)

REF: OIA-16911

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

This is regarding your telephone call with a Customer Services representative on 1 November 2024, when you requested information on the number of people aged over 65 years who failed eyesight tests at Driver Licencing agents. Your call was logged as a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The information you have requested is outlined in the table below.

Number of applicants over 65 years with an eyesight test resulted as part of a renewal application <i>between 1 November 2023 - 31 October 2024</i>			
Eyesight test resulted from	Eyesight result		
	Fit without Lenses	Fit with Lenses	Unfit
Eyesight or medical certificate presented	53,943	52,380	38
Eyesight test at agent	3,224	3,007	782

It is important to note the following caveats:

- The information was extracted from the Driver Licence Register (DLR) and is current as at 25 November 2024.
- The data is limited to applicants aged over 65 years (at test date) with an eyesight test resulted between 1 November 2023 and 31 October 2024 (inclusive).
- The data is limited to eyesight tests recorded against a driver licence renewal application.
- The data is a count of applicants with an eyesight test resulted, not the number of eyesight tests resulted.
- An applicant may be counted more than once in the table if there is more than one eyesight test recorded against the applicant.

- The outcome of an eyesight test can be resulted from:
 - the applicant sitting the eyesight screening test at the agent, or
 - an approved medical certificate or eyesight certificate, or
 - re-entering an eyesight result from a previous application in DLR if, the applicant has a copy of that certificate, and the certificate is not more than 60 days old.

- An eyesight test can be resulted as follows:
 - Fit without lenses (Pass result)
 - Fit with lenses (Pass result)
 - Unfit (Fail result).

- The results of an eyesight test are recorded against an application in DLR (for example, against an application for a new class of licence, or a renewal of a driver's licence). Eyesight certificates and medical certificates associated to the application are also recorded against the same application when the certificates are presented to a driver licensing agent at the time of application.

- The DLR does not indicate if the eyesight test was resulted from an eyesight or medical certificate, or from the eyesight screening test at the agents. The source of the eyesight test result has therefore been determined as follows:
 - The eyesight test was resulted from the eyesight screening test at the agents if:
 - there is no eyesight certificate or medical certificate recorded against the application, or
 - the certificate details are entered as "Medical declaration", or
 - there is an eyesight certificate or medical certificate recorded against the application, but the certificate was not recorded in DLR on the same day as the eyesight test.
 - The eyesight test resulted from an eyesight certificate or medical certificate, if there is an eyesight certificate or medical certificate recorded against the application, and the certificate was recorded in DLR on the same day as the eyesight test.

- More than one eyesight result may be recorded against an application. For example, in the instance where the applicant fails the eyesight screening check at the agents, but later provides an eyesight or medical certificate.

- Where two or more eyesight test results are available for the same day, and an eyesight and/or medical certificate is also recorded on the same day, the initial "Unfit" test result has been determined as having been resulted from the applicant sitting the eyesight screening test at the agent.

- Drivers renewing their licence from age 75 years are required to provide a medical certificate. Please refer to factsheet 57 for further information:
<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/factsheets/57/docs/57-older-drivers.pdf>

- Drivers renewing their heavy vehicle licences (truck licence) are required to provide a medical certificate if one hasn't been provided in the last 5 years.

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

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact us by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

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

Galina Mitchelhill
Senior Manager, Insight and Analytics