

11 April 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-14892

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 12 March 2024 requesting information on alcohol interlock devices under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your questions have been numbered for ease of reference below.

- 1. [...] how many alcohol interlock devices have been installed in vehicles by court order over the last five years, broken down by year.***
- 2. [...] how many people have received the alcohol interlock subsidy in that time frame, per year [...]***
- 3. [...] how much money has been provided through the subsidy too, broken down in the same way [...]***
- 4. Does that subsidy come from NZTA budget?***
- 5. Can you please also break down how much of the subsidy provided over the last five years was for people voluntarily installing interlock devices VS people installing them under court order?***

I will address each part your request in turn.

- 1. [...] how many alcohol interlock devices have been installed in vehicles by court order over the last five years, broken down by year.***

This information is not held by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA), we have no oversight of device installations. The responsibility to install the Alcohol Interlock Device (AID), following the Court Sanction and resulting issuance of an AID licence, sits with the licence holder. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act because the information requested is not held by NZTA and we have no grounds for believing that the information is either (i) held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority; or (ii) connected more closely with the functions of another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation or of a local authority.

2. [...] how many people have received the alcohol interlock subsidy in that time frame, per year [...]

Number of alcohol interlock (AID) licences granted or partially granted with an AID subsidy for applications created between 1 January 2019-31 December 2023						
AID subsidy	Year application created					Total
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
AID subsidy created outside of application	105	100	110	108	155	578
AID subsidy created within application	602	699	803	708	1,065	3,877
AID subsidy not applied	1,920	1,776	2,185	2,318	2,074	10,273
Total	2,627	2,575	3,098	3,134	3,294	14,728

The data in the table above should be considered in conjunction with the caveats provided below:

- The information was extracted from the Driver Licence Register (DLR) and was current as at 18 March 2024.
- The data is limited applications for an AID licence created between 1 January 2019-31 December 2023 (inclusive), with a granted or partially granted status as at 18 March 2024.
- The data is limited to AID licences granted or partially granted as part of the following application types:
 - reinstatement with requalification
 - reinstatement.
- An applicant's eligibility for an alcohol interlock subsidy is identified when the alcohol interlock subsidy is created in DLR between the application create date and the application grant date (inclusive).
- An application for an AID licence is identified when an alcohol interlock condition is selected as part of the application. The data includes applications where the alcohol interlock condition was incorrectly selected as part of the application (and the condition later cancelled/removed).

3. [...] how much money has been provided through the subsidy too, broken down in the same way [...]

Time period	AID Subsidy
January 2019 till December 2019	\$491,629
January 2020 till December 2020	\$910,300
January 2021 till December 2021	\$1,254,914
January 2022 till December 2022	\$1,170,930
January 2023 till December 2023	\$1,157,014

4. Does that subsidy come from NZTA budget?

Funds for the AID programme are drawn down from the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) budget. Nationally Delivered Activities (NDAs) are non-state highway related activities and programmes delivered or managed by NZTA and included in the NLTP. NDAs support the wider transport sector with a range of outcomes from improving safety to increasing sector capability and legislation requires that NDAs be included in the NLTP as a prerequisite to receiving funding from the National Land Transport Fund.

5. Can you please also break down how much of the subsidy provided over the last five years was for people voluntarily installing interlock devices VS people installing them under court order.

The subsidy is not available to licence holders who voluntarily seek to have an AID installed. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act because the information requested is not held by NZTA and we have no grounds for believing that the information is either (i) held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority; or (ii) connected more closely with the functions of another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation or of a local authority.

For subsidies provided following the court sanction please refer to our response to question 3.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to partially refuse this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

In line with 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 Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager Media, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Moore', written over a horizontal line.

Tracy Moore
Head of Customer Operations