



NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
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18 December 2015

Mathew Dearnaley
NZ Herald Reporter
mathew.dearnaley@nzherald.co.nz

Dear Mr Dearnaley

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 2 November 2015 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. *How many drivers have had their P-endorsements revoked, or been denied endorsements, since January, 2006, on the basis of criminal offending, and would you please table those on a year-by-year basis, so we can discern the development of any trends?*
2. *How many of the above were revoked or declined because of physical or sexual assaults (I note that you provided a response in March to a request from TV3 about sexual offending, but I would appreciate an update and information about general assaults as well)?*
3. *Can you please break the above-requested figures down into small (maximum of 12 seats) and large vehicle categories (given that I understand from the response to TV3 that information specific to taxis is not readily available)?*
4. *How many serious complaints, and under which categories, have Approved Taxi Organisations (ATOs) referred to the NZ Transport Agency annually since 2006.*
5. *How many complaints were upheld, and what action was taken over them?*
6. *How many serious complaints has NZTA received from the public, which were not referred to it by APOs within a mandated 48-hour period, and have any APOs faced sanctions as a result? If so, how many, and what sort of sanctions?*
7. *Does NZTA hold statistics about violent attacks on taxi drivers and, if so, to what extent has the incidence of these diminished since CCTV cameras in cabs became compulsory in 2011?*
8. *Has there been any increase in attacks since publicity in mid-2013 about a fraud case under police investigation involving the sale of 700 counterfeit and faulty versions of NZTA-approved cameras to Auckland companies Reliable Cabs and Sail Cabs, and Christchurch's Blue Star Taxis?*
9. *Have the police advised NZTA what became of that fraud case, and can you provide details?*
10. *Does NZTA hold statistics about violent attacks on bus drivers, and is there any consideration being given to making cab cameras compulsory on buses, as they are in taxis?*

I have responded to your questions accordingly:

- 1) **How many drivers have had their P-endorsements revoked, or been denied endorsements, since January, 2006, on the basis of criminal offending, and would you please table those on a year-by-year basis, so we can discern the development of any trends?**

The Transport Agency does not maintain a database that records criminal offending as the reason for the revocation of a P endorsement. Consequently this request is declined under 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information you seek does not exist.

- 2) How many of the above were revoked or declined because of physical or sexual assaults (I note that you provided a response in March to a request from TV3 about sexual offending, but I would appreciate an update and information about general assaults as well)?**

From 16 January 2006 there have been 346 P endorsements for small (e.g. a taxi, maximum 12 seats) and large vehicles (e.g. bus and shuttle drivers – more than 12 seats) that have either expired, revoked or declined because of sexual offending.

- 3) Can you please break the above-requested figures down into small (maximum of 12 seats) and large vehicle categories (given that I understand from the response to TV3 that information specific to taxis is not readily available)?**

The Transport Agency does not maintain a database that records whether a P endorsement revoked for sexual offending was revoked for a small or large vehicle category. Consequently this request is declined under 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information you seek does not exist.

- 4) How many serious complaints, and under which categories, have Approved Taxi Organisations (ATOs) referred to the NZ Transport Agency annually since 2006.**

The Transport Agency do not collect information about how many serious complaints and under which categories ATOs have referred to the Transport Agency. Consequently this request is declined under 18(e) of the OIA as the information you seek does not exist.

- 5) How many complaints were upheld, and what action was taken over them?**

For the reasons explained in our response to question four, we do not collect information about how many serious complaints and under which categories ATOs have referred to the Transport Agency. Consequently this request is declined under 18(e) of the OIA as the information you seek does not exist.

- 6) How many serious complaints has NZTA received from the public, which were not referred to it by ATOs within a mandated 48-hour period, and have any ATOs faced sanctions as a result? If so, how many, and what sort of sanctions?**

For the reasons explained in our response to question four, we do not collect information about how many serious complaints and under which categories ATOs have referred to the Transport Agency. Consequently this request is declined under 18(e) of the OIA as the information you seek does not exist.

- 7) Does NZTA hold statistics about violent attacks on taxi drivers and, if so, to what extent has the incidence of these diminished since CCTV cameras in cabs became compulsory in 2011?**

As advised in our letter to you of 26 November 2015, we suggest you approach NZ Police directly in regards to this question as we do not hold this information.

- 8) Has there been any increase in attacks since publicity in mid-2013 about a fraud case under police investigation involving the sale of 700 counterfeit**

**and faulty versions of NZTA-approved cameras to Auckland companies
Reliable Cabs and Sail Cabs, and Christchurch's Blue Star Taxis?**

As advised in our letter to you of 26 November 2015, we suggest you approach NZ Police directly in regards to this question as we do not hold this information.

9) Have the police advised NZTA what became of that fraud case, and can you provide details?

NZ Police have not advised the Transport Agency of the outcome of the case you have referred to. Consequently this request is declined under 18(e) of the OIA as the information you seek is not held by the Transport Agency.

10) Does NZTA hold statistics about violent attacks on bus drivers, and is there any consideration being given to making cab cameras compulsory on buses, as they are in taxis?

The Transport Agency does not maintain a database that records information about violent attacks on bus drivers. Consequently this request is declined under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information does not exist. There is no consideration being given to making cab cameras compulsory on buses at this time.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact David Pearks, Regional Manager Midlands by email at david.pearks@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (07) 958 7351.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Styles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Styles
National Manager Operations
For Chief Executive