

8 August 2023

James Sergeant
fyi-request-23465-4c00da54@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-13087

Dear James

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 11 July 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Could you please provide me with information on any policy analysis undertaken within NZTA on the basis of NZ Transport Agency research report 609, Quantifying the economic and other benefits of enabling priority bus egress from bus stops (February 2017) and any information describing further work considered or undertaken to take forward the suggestions set out in chapter 8 (Conclusions) of that report.

The NZ Transport Agency Research Report 609 influenced the development of a policy proposal that would legally require road users (including motorists and cyclists) to give way to buses which are exiting a bus stop.

This policy proposal was included in the Accessible Streets Package (the package) – a collection of rule changes designed to improve the safety and accessibility of our footpaths, shared paths, cycle lanes, cycle paths, and roads.

A Preliminary Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) was developed to assess how effective introducing bus priority would be, and a consultation overview was created to support public consultation on the package in 2020.

If you would like to read the RIS or the consultation overview you can access these documents here: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/consultations/archive/accessible-streets/>.

You can find the relevant information about the policy proposal in the RIS on pages 98 – 104, and in the overview on pages 74 – 75.

Following public consultation, Waka Kotahi carried out further engagement with stakeholders and used feedback to prepare a summary of submissions, an updated Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) and a Disability Impact Assessment (DIA).

These documents were used to inform final advice to the Minister of Transport about how the package should be progressed (e.g., if proposals should be kept the same, amended or removed from the package). Final advice is being considered by ministers and an announcement is expected to follow in due course.

Unfortunately, we are not able share these updated documents (e.g., the summary of submissions, the RIA, or DIA) with you until Cabinet has made decisions.

Therefore, I am withholding this part of your request under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

In the meantime, we have added you to our Accessible Streets Package mailing list. This means that once decisions are made, we will notify you about all decisions, and send you links to all updated documents.

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

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Ministerial Services, by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Mayes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katie Mayes

National Manager, Policy and System Planning