

31 October 2023

S Zeng
fyi-request-23630-641344aa@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-13547

Dear S Zeng

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email renewing your 29 July 2023 request for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I would like to request the most recent National Land Transport (Road) Noise Map in geodatabase format. Specifically, the ESRI geodatabase mentioned as output in 6.0 in this report, or the latest version since the report's release:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/Highways-Information-Portal/Technical-disciplines/Noiseand-vibration/Research-and-information/Other-research/national-land-transport-roadnoise-map-2019-05-16.pdf>

I would also prefer the map be released along with other supplemental information through the NZTA's Open Data Portal <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/open-dataportal/>. Though if it will slow down the release of this data, please send it to me instead.

Your original request was deemed as outside the principles of the Act as, in accordance with Section 12(2) of the Act, it had not been specified with due particularity. On 5 September 2023 you provided the following clarification:

...I intend to perform exploratory analysis on the data, including the noise pollution effect of different types of transport infrastructure. I reserve the right to share any findings with the wider public. I am requesting the information for all of New Zealand, though I am more interested in Auckland. I also personally live in an area with significant traffic noise, and want to know if this issue is recognised by NZTA modelling, and what other areas are affected by the issue.

As mentioned in our notice of extension on 3 October 2023, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is still waiting on the 2019 noise contour map data to be transferred from our contractor. However, this data will soon be superseded by the upcoming release of the 2023 Social Cost of Noise (SCON) report and new noise contour maps being prepared in association with this report. While Waka Kotahi has the data for these maps, further work is needed to present these in a publicly digestible format along with supporting documentation. Waka Kotahi expects the report and associated maps to be made publicly available by mid to late December 2023.

As updated noise contour maps will soon be publicly available, I am refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act. This section provides for refusal when the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse 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 Waka Kotahi or seek an update on the availability of the 2023 SCON data, please contact us by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "V L Browne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V" and "L".

Vanessa Browne
National Manager Programme and Standards