

22 April 2024

Mark
fyi-request-26207-4ee3a9bb@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-14987

Dear Mark

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 23 March 2024 requesting information relating to driver testing officers under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I have responded to each part of your request in turn below.

1. *Why are driver testing officers required to be employed by VTNZ or the NZDF if there is no mention of this in legislation?*

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) hold the regulatory responsibility for driver testing services. We have delegated the delivery of this service to Vehicle Testing New Zealand (VTNZ) through a service delivery contract. We have also provided delegation to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to test their own staff members.

2. *Number of assaults/verbal abuse incidents with testing officers within the last year.*

VTNZ has advised that from 1 February 2023 to 26 March 2024, there have been 6 physical assaults, 27 verbal assaults and 2 plant and materials assaults. 'Plant and materials' relate to an assault on a fixing (i.e. smashing a window of a site) or vehicle at VTNZ.

3. *Can/do testing officers still undertake basic handling skills tests?*

No. Testing Officers with the current provider (VTNZ) do not provide basic handling skills testing.

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

Yours sincerely



Eric van der Plank
Senior Manager Commercial Services