

13 February 2024

J Bruning
fyi-request-25206-820a1127@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-14442

Dear J Bruning

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 16 December 2023 to the Department of Internal Affairs requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Please can you supply all reports/advice reviewing the extent to which authorities are detecting use/supply of false/fake New Zealand passports or drivers' licenses in New Zealand, by New Zealand citizens/residents, and the increase or decrease of this practice against historic norms.

If possible please supply information pertaining the occasions where false/fake passports or drivers' licenses will be used/supplied.

In accordance with section 14 of the Act, the parts of your request relating to the use and supply of NZ driver licences was transferred to NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) on 12 January 2024 as the information requested is more closely connected with our functions.

When driver licences are issued, the individual seeking the licence must provide evidence of their identity that meets legislated requirements. These requirements are specified in the Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Rule 1999. The Driver Licence Register (DLR) contains records of driver licences that have been issued in accordance with legislated requirements. Therefore, the DLR does not hold information about fake driver licences.

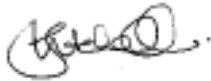
NZTA receives sporadic reports regarding the sale of fake driver licences on websites such as Facebook. However, the reports are not consistent enough to advise on the increase or decrease of this practice against historic norms. Similarly, we cannot comment on whether it is being done by NZ citizens and residents, or what the outcome of these sales are.

NZTA is in the process of developing a research report related to the use of fake driver licences however it is currently incomplete. I am therefore refusing your request under 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by NZTA and there are no grounds for believing that the information is either held by, or more closely connected with the functions of another department.

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 NZTA, please contact Ministerial Services, by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jodi Mitchell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jodi Mitchell

National Manager Performance and Insights