

5 April 2024

R S Grant

fyi-request-26196-f07158c3@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-14975

Dear R S Grant

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 21 March 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):


I refer to your public release of the "Mobile phone and seatbelt detection trial report - 24 July 2023". Do you have information regarding the speed the vehicles that were travelling at when an offence was detected? The consequences of distraction while using a mobile phone are clearly high for a driver travelling at speed, while they are essentially zero for a driver who is stationary in traffic. It would be useful to understand what proportion of the 2.4% of drivers committing a mobile phone offence were actually causing a danger as opposed to merely sitting in stationary traffic.

The focus of the Mobile Phone and Seatbelt Detection trial was mobile phone and seatbelt use while driving. As part of the trial design, the cameras were installed on a motorway and mid-block in an urban street to avoid detecting stationary vehicles. As a result, it can be inferred that all the vehicles where the drivers were committing mobile phone offences were in motion.

Speeds were detected, but not recorded as part of the trial. Each potential mobile phone offence was manually verified, including reviewing an image that also included the vehicle speed. For privacy reasons all images, with the exception of those included in the trial report, have subsequently been destroyed.

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

Yours sincerely



David Strong

Acting Head of Regulatory Strategic Programmes