

Response: OIA2021.22

22 March 2021

To Brett Cooper

Via FYI.org

Dear Brett

Official information request for information on fuel usage and freight tonnage

I refer to your official information request dated 19 February 2021, asking:

I would like to know how much fuel (diesel) the freight trains used each year for as many years as records are available as well as a record of how much freight was carried for those years too.

Please find our response below.

Fuel consumption

We do not hold records of the amount of fuel used by our freight trains per year as KiwiRail operates a mix of diesel and electric locomotives with part of the North Main Truck Line electrified. 160 of our mainline locomotives are diesel, 15 are electric and all of our shunt locomotives are diesel.

With the mixture of propulsion types, and the additional usage of diesel locomotives for our scenic services the fuel consumption by freight services alone is unable to be easily separated out.

We can however advise the annual fuel consumption for our total locomotive fleet is 43,863,550 L per year, and our mainline locomotive fleet travel a combined 14,422,949 km per year, or an average of 82,419 km per locomotive per year – which will hopefully give you an idea of the rough numbers on fuel consumption .

Freight volumes

Please find the table below showing freight carried by financial year:

Financial year	Freight Tonnage	Container Tare	Combined Freight Tonnage
2009	13,298,630	1,619,124	14,917,754
2010	13,703,720	1,461,681	15,165,401
2011	14,643,651	1,508,388	16,152,039
2012	15,822,095	1,677,976	17,500,071
2013	15,855,380	1,766,529	17,621,909
2014	15,937,036	1,763,132	17,700,168

2015	15,914,057	1,864,094	17,778,151
2016	15,547,356	2,196,803	17,744,159
2017	15,649,189	2,278,346	17,927,535
2018	16,526,204	2,568,518	19,094,722
2019	18,071,568	2,677,961	20,749,529
2020	16,362,466	2,565,163	18,927,619

Please the freight tonnage figure is the actual weight of goods carried by rail (with no allowance for non-rail freight on our Interislander Ferries).

The container tare figure is provided, as that allows for 3rd party containers that are moved on rail.

We have been able to go back as far as 2009, as this was the first KiwiRail year. Data captured before then may be calculated in a different way.

We trust this answers your query, please get in touch if you have further questions.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling free-phone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Dave Allard
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