

20 June 2022

T. Ho
fyi-request-19441-d5515be3@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-10188

Dear T. Ho

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 24 May 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

When a replacement fee will be charged for a drivers licence?

When a renewal fee will be charged for a drivers licence?

What is the policy for elderly drivers who need to change the conditions of their licence due to medical situational changes from the age of 64 till 75 and how much they will be charged?

I will respond to each aspect of your request below.

Replacement and renewal driver licence applications

The fee charged for a driver licence will depend on the type of application made by a driver licence holder at one of the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency licensing agents (Automobile Association or Vehicle Testing New Zealand).

If a photo driver licence card (PDL) has been lost, stolen or damaged, the licence holder can complete a replacement application to have a new PDL issued to them. The application will automatically cancel the old PDL to reduce the risk of the licence details being used fraudulently should the card be located by a third party. A replacement licence application can also be used if a person wishes to change the details that appear on their PDL (for example, when changing their name or address). The replacement PDL will have the same expiry date as the previous one.

A driver licence renewal application is generally used when a driver licence is either nearing its expiry date or has expired within the previous five years. Any licence holders under the age of 75 may renew their driver licence at any time. For those older than 75, they can only renew their driver licence within six months of the licence expiry date. In these instances, the renewal application will produce a new PDL with a renewed expiry date of up to ten years (depending on the persons age).

As the expiry date of the driver licence doesn't change with a replacement licence application, it may be worthwhile for people to simply renew their licence instead. For example, if a person under the age of 75 has lost their PDL, and still has two years until the licence is set to expire, it would be beneficial for them to renew the licence now for a further ten-year period. Otherwise, if they simply replaced the PDL now, they will still be required to complete a licence renewal application in two years' time.

Further information regarding the driver licence replacement and renewal applications, is available on our website at the below link:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/driver-licences/renewing-replacing-and-updating/>

Older driver licence conditions

While the majority of licence holders will only gain a medical certificate for driver licensing purposes at the time of a renewal, health practitioners cannot assume that the driver licensing system will pick up all individuals who are unfit to drive. Therefore, Waka Kotahi advises practitioners that it is important they consider medical fitness to drive in their everyday dealings with patients, not just when someone wants a medical or eyesight certificate for driver licensing purposes.

Should health practitioners determine that a licence holder should have further conditions placed on their licence, or existing conditions removed, they are able to provide this information to the Waka Kotahi Medical Review team for further assessment. If the Case Officer tasked with reviewing the information determines that a new condition should be added, or an existing condition should be removed from the licence, the person's driver licence record is updated in the Driver Licence Register (DLR). The Case Officer will also order a new PDL to be sent to the licence holder within the next seven to ten days. The new PDL is free of charge.

The above policy applies to all licence holders, not just those aged between 64 and 75 years of age. This also applies to all medical related conditions that appear on a driver licence record except the B condition (lenses must be used at all times while driving). In these instances, should a licence holder need to have a B condition added to their licence due to deteriorating eyesight, or the condition removed, due to corrective surgery or a change in their eyesight, they can complete a standard replacement of licence application at one of our licensing agents. After providing the relevant eyesight certificate or completing the eye test at the agent, the B condition can then be updated in the DLR and a new PDL produced. The licence holder will be required to pay the replacement licence fee of \$38.20.

However, as mentioned earlier, a replacement licence application will not update the expiry date of the licence, and it may therefore be more appropriate to renew the driver licence instead. Most licences will generally be issued for 10 years and cost \$43.90. If a licence holder is aged 65 or over, the licence may be issued for less than the standard term and will expire on their 75th birthday. In which case, they will pay a lower fee, depending on their age, as the licence will not be valid for the same amount of time. For example, if a person is aged 65, their licence will be valid for ten years and they will pay the \$43.90 renewal fee. If the person is aged 73, their licence will only be valid for two years, and will pay a pro rata renewal fee of \$14.70.

Further information regarding the driver licence renewal fees is available at:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/driver-licences/licensing-fees/renewal-fees/#licence-renewal>

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

Yours sincerely



Sue Hardiman

Senior Manager Vehicle and Driver Licensing