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22 December 2023

Tim Rowlands fyi-requests-20237-f9266f3a@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-10773

Dear Tim

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

This is a follow-up response to your email of 16 August 2022 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) where you asked, among other things, about the location of the safety cameras being used in the mobile phone and seatbelt detection trial. At the time of your request, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) refused the information under section 6(c) of the Act.

The use of section 6(c) of the Act does not rely on whether infringement notices are issued; it is used in instances where making the information available would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the investigation or detection of offences.

At the time of your request, the camera trial was still ongoing, and this information was refused under section 6(c) of the Act as disclosure of the camera locations used in the trial would have altered people's behaviour, affecting the accuracy of the trial results. This would have negatively impacted our ability to assess safety cameras as a possible enforcement tool to detect people committing offences by driving while using their mobile phones and/or not wearing their seatbelts. In turn, this would have then prejudiced our ability to maintain the law.

The trial has now been completed and its results are being used to develop a strategy to reduce offending in the future. The results of the trial were published in July 2023 and can be viewed at:

Mobile phone and seatbelt detection trial report- July-2023

I can now confirm the cameras used in the trial were located in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland at:

- State Highway 1 Newmarket
- State Highway 16 causeway
- Fanshawe Street in the Auckland Central Business District.

Please see page 7 in the link above for more details about the camera locations.

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

Yours sincerely

Tara Macmillan

Head of Regulatory and Strategy Programmes

Copy to: Katty Lau

Investigator

Office of the Ombudsman

katty.lau@ombudsman.parliament.nz