

26 August 2024

Chris McCashin
fyi-request-27844-2d27c19a@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-16009

Dear Chris

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 29 July 2024 requesting the information regarding the legality and regulations surrounding speed bumps installed by local councils under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). My responses to each part of your request are provided below.

The current legal framework and regulations governing the installation of speed bumps on different types of roads in New Zealand. I understand speed humps cannot be installed on National Roads, Regional Roads, Arterial Roads and Primary Collector Roads - how have Wellington City Council been able to install large numbers of speed humps on roads that fit the above criteria?

Section 7.9 of the Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004 (the TCD Rule) allows Road Controlling Authorities (RCAs) to install road humps, speed platforms and other structures to slow speed and restrict through movements as they see fit. If they choose to use these devices, they must be illuminated, or have either reflective delineators or reflective signs, installed so that the structure is visible.

Any national guidelines or standards that local authorities must follow when installing speed bumps, including specifications for design, placement, and signage.

Guidance for installing speed bumps (referred to as vertical deflection devices) is given to RCAs in the Part 5 of the Traffic control devices manual (TCD manual). However, the particular type of device and its location is left to RCA engineers to determine using their professional judgment.

The process for approving the installation of speed bumps, including which authorities are responsible for granting permissions. Have NZTA allowed speed humps to be installed on the types of roads above or have council granted themselves permission?

RCAs, such as Wellington City Council are responsible for the installation and approval of traffic calming devices on their own road network.

Any records or data on illegal or non-compliant speed bumps that have been identified or reported in the past five years, including their locations and the nature of their non-compliance. For example how many of the recent installations are likely to be non-compliant?

There are no records of illegal or non-compliant speed bumps. It is up to RCA engineers to install speed bumps in accordance with the TCD Rule, which are then approved by elected Community Boards and Councils.

This part of your request has therefore been refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by NZTA and there is no reason to believe it is either held by or is more closely connected more closely with the functions of another department.

Information on any legal challenges or disputes that have arisen regarding the installation or presence of speed bumps in New Zealand in the past five years.

In its capacity as the RCA for state highways in New Zealand, NZTA has not been involved in any legal challenges or disputes regarding the installation or presence of speed bumps on state highways, in the past five years.

Information on any legal challenges or disputes regarding the installation or presence of speed bumps on local roads will be held by the respective RCA.

Any assessments or studies conducted by the NZTA or other government bodies on the effectiveness and safety of speed bumps as traffic calming measures.

The following documents fall within scope of this part of your request and are enclosed

1. Speed management in New Zealand What works and what does not work
2. Raised Safety Platform Evaluation - Gordonton and Thomas Road intersection
3. Extract from Road Safety Case Studies - What works.

Some personal information has also been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information in order to protect to privacy of natural persons. I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Information on the effectiveness of vertical deflection devices is available online at:

- www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/partners/road-safety-resources/safe-system-solutions/
- www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/partners/road-safety-resources/safe-system-case-studies/
- <https://austroads.com.au/publications/traffic-management/ap-r642-20>.

Policies or guidelines on the removal of speed bumps that are found to be non-compliant or illegal installed by councils.

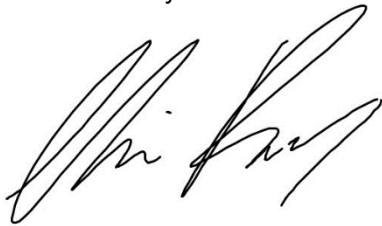
NZTA does not have any policies or guidelines on the removal of speed bumps. Should an RCA wish to remove a speed bump, it is up to its engineers to use their professional judgement to determine how to do so.

This part of your request has therefore been refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by NZTA and there is no reason to believe it is either held by or is more closely connected more closely 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 withhold information and refuse parts of 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 'Chris Rodley', written in a cursive style.

Chris Rodley

National Manager Regulatory System Design