

## By email

14 December 2018

File Ref: OIAP-7-8719

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Dear Mr Davenport

## Request for information 2018-334

I refer to your request for information dated 20 November 2018, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) on 20 November 2018. You have requested the following information:

*“Since the new bus roll out in July 2018, buses were installed with overhead "grab handles" (yellow handles with a yellow fabric strap to an overhead bar). In the recent week, these have been removed with no comment from Metlink.*

*I am requesting any information regarding*

- The installation of these devices*
- The removal of these devices*
- Any safety tests done on these devices*
- Any internal and external correspondence relating to the reasons for removal of the devices, with particular attention to any safety concerns with their status, and any safety concerns that may arise with their removal.*
- This correspondence may be internal with greater wellington regional council staff, bus operators (transurban/nz bus/etc), and external contractors*
- Any indication when alternative devices will be installed”*

## GWRC’s response follows:

### Installation

Hanging grab handles are installed by the bus manufacturers.

RESPONSE TO REQUEST



### **Removal**

Due to the concern over the integrity of the hanging grab handles, they were all removed from all of the 55 BCI LV buses. It was considered that in the short term there were sufficient alternative hand holds, which includes grab handles on seats, stanchions and horizontal bars, for the passengers that could not reach the overhead bar to use.

### **Safety tests**

The modified handle was subject to a design review of the construction method.

### **Internal and external correspondence**

Attached is a copy of the information that we have identified as falling within the scope of your request.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Yours sincerely



**Angus Gabara**

General Manager, Public Transport (Acting)