

13 December 2018

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REF: OIA-4380

Dear Phil

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 18 October 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Any reports or investigations or memos between staff in the last two years, about the practice of operators using the CoF industry to do pre-CoF checks on vehicles.

Vehicle Condition Assessments (VCA) also known as Pre-CoF inspections are not a legislated process and are therefore not something which the Transport Agency regulates. While regular VCAs can help to promote safe vehicles, the Transport Agency is aware that some operators are treating them as Pre-CoF inspections to avoid a failed inspection affecting their Operator Rating System (ORS) rating.

The Pre-CoF practice is something which has been identified as limiting the effectiveness of using CoF pass rates as a measure of operator performance within the ORS system.

In accordance with your request, please find enclosed the following documents which fall within the scope of your request:

- Attachment 1 – CoF to VCA issue (VTNZ)
- Attachment 2 – ORS Proposed Changes for the short term V2
- Attachment 3 – ORS Briefing note v5
- Attachment 4 – ORS Enhancement Project – Draft

An investigation into Mitsubishi Fuso bus crashes also contained the following comment which falls within the scope of your request:

"The practice of pre-CoF (in order to increase ORS scoring), likely hinders the messaging of proactive maintenance for the life of a CoF. In the last few years variable CoF has been used more by the compliance teams to effect attitude change, noting pre-CoF does motivate CoF ready vehicles, but what is yet to be evidenced is whether or not it necessarily addresses competency of the PIC's at the wider TSL control/ safety level?"

Certain information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Information not within the scope of your request has been withheld. To be of assistance, pages which do not contain any information relating to the request have been removed.

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold this information. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that we will also be publishing the response to this request on our website: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/news-and-media/official-information-act/official-informationact-oia-responses/>

If you would like to discuss this reply with the NZ Transport Agency, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Manager Media, by email to Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (04) 894 6285.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brett Aldridge', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brett Aldridge
Regulatory Compliance Lead