

OC225088

24 October 2025

Tēnā koe 

I refer to your email dated 23 September 2025, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *“All advice, briefings, memos, reports, or internal correspondence prepared by or received by the Ministry regarding Tesla’s Full Self-Driving Supervised (FSD-S) system and its operation in New Zealand.*
2. *Any engagement or correspondence (including emails, meeting notes, or call records) between the Ministry and Tesla or its representatives relating to FSD-S or autonomous vehicle technology more broadly.*
3. *Any assessments or analysis undertaken by the Ministry regarding the legal, regulatory, safety, or enforcement implications of FSD-S in New Zealand.”*

Four documents fall within the scope of your request. All are released with some information withheld. The document schedule attached as Annex one outlines how the documents you requested have been treated under the Act.

Certain information is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 9(2)(a) | to protect the privacy of natural persons |
| 9(2)(b)(ii) | to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information |
| 9(2)(g)(i) | to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty |
| 9(2)(j) | to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). |

With regard to the information that has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, I am satisfied that the reasons for withholding the information at this time are not outweighed by public interest considerations that would make it desirable to make the information available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

The Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on the Ministry's website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a hand-drawn oval. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Tessa Ayson'.

Tessa Ayson
Manager, Strategic Priorities

Annex One: Document Schedule

No.	Date	Title of Document	Decision on request
1	26/08/2025	Call with NZTA meeting 26 Aug Subject: Chris Rodly and Brent Lewers. Talking with Max Christie	Released with some information withheld under sections 9(2)(j) and 9(2)(g)(i).
2	09/09/2025	Email from: Tessa Ayson to Larisa Logvina, Max Christie Subject: Re: Tesla update on Full Self Driving (Supervised) -s 9(2)(b)(ii)	Released with some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(ii)
3	23/09/2025	Email from: Tessa Ayson to Max Christie Subject: Re: Tesla in WR	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a).
4	25/08/2025	Weekly report item 25 August 2025	Released, some information out of scope.

Call with NZTA 26/8

Chris Rodly and Brent Lewers. Talking with Max Christie

Tesla:

- Last time we confirmed we are mostly comfortable with the current pathways.
- 168D of the LTMA.
- Update is that, for Tesla where the vehicles themselves meet all current vehicle requirements, we don't think that they need exemptions. Reason we know, got embargoed email from Tesla yesterday. They'll send to me after the meeting.
- Scenario 1:
 - o Going to deploy this week with "Full Self Drive" – Level 2 Automation. On Friday. Will attract a bit of noise. Nothing in the legislation that stops them.
 - o Tesla are very clear in the material that the driver remains responsible for the vehicle. It is genuinely a level 2 system. Note that there have been some significant situations in other jurisdictions.

- Scenario 2:

s 9(2)(j)



- Wants us to be aware of barriers
- Scale: FSD can be retrofitted to vehicles 20,000 eligible vehicles. It is expensive: \$11.4k. It looks like uptake in the US is 2% (Elon says more, but shrug). Will have a media impact.
- Out of Scope

Out of Scope



In the next five years:

- Will get broader.

- s 9(2)(g)(i)
- Out of Scope



- o s 9(2)(g)(i)



s 9(2)(g)(i)

- Director of land transport meeting with Tesla on 16 September. Asked to meet separately to maintain independence from NZTA.
- Out of Scope

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Max Christie

From: Tessa Ayson
Sent: Tuesday, 9 September 2025 12:19 pm
To: Larisa Logvina; Max Christie
Subject: Re: Tesla update on Full Self Driving (Supervised) - s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Hi Larisa, I'm currently extremely flexible on those days so book in whenever suits and I will work around it!

From: Larisa Logvina <Larisa.Logvina@nzta.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 12:16 PM
To: Max Christie <M.Christie@transport.govt.nz>; Tessa Ayson <T.Ayson@transport.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Tesla update on Full Self Driving (Supervised) - s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Thank you for your reply and providing the times for Tessa, Max 😊

[@Tessa Ayson](#) Could you please let me know what your availability is like on the 18th and 19th of September?

Tessa has come back to me saying they won't be able to meet on the s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Thank you,
Lara

From: Max Christie <M.Christie@transport.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 5 September 2025 9:02 am
To: Larisa Logvina <Larisa.Logvina@nzta.govt.nz>; Tessa Ayson <T.Ayson@transport.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Tesla update on Full Self Driving (Supervised) - s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Hi Larisa

Unfortunately, I'm going to be on leave that week, but Tessa is currently available in the following times:

- 16th
- 9 – 10
 - 11 – 12
 - 4 – 5
- 17th
- 10 – 12
 - 3 – 5

I believe it's fine for it just to be her joining.

Max

From: Larisa Logvina <Larisa.Logvina@nzta.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 4 September 2025 4:41 pm

To: Max Christie <M.Christie@transport.govt.nz>; Tessa Ayson <T.Ayson@transport.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Tesla update on Full Self Driving (Supervised) - § 9(2)(b)(ii)

Kia ora Max and Tessa,

I'm Chris' PA, nice to e-meet you 😊

I've been asked to take over Brent and coordinate this meeting.

Could you please let me know what your availability is like on the § 9(2)(b)(ii)

And does anyone else from MoT need to be included in this meeting with Tesla?

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

Lara Logvina

PA to Tara Macmillan, Head of Regulatory Strategic Programmes

PA to Chris Rodley, National Manager Regulatory System Design

Te Ama - Commercial and Corporate

Email: larisa.logvina@nzta.govt.nz

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi

Auckland, Level 5, AON Centre, 29 Customs Street West

Private Bag 106602, Auckland 1143, New Zealand

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www.nzta.govt.nz

From: Brent Lewers <Brent.Lewers@nzta.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 28 August 2025 2:17 pm

To: Chris Rodley <chris.rodley@nzta.govt.nz>; Max Christie <M.Christie@transport.govt.nz>

Cc: Mike Hargreaves <Mike.Hargreaves@nzta.govt.nz>; Tessa Ayson <T.Ayson@transport.govt.nz>; Larisa Logvina <Larisa.Logvina@nzta.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Tesla update on Full Self Driving (Supervised) - § 9(2)(b)(ii)

Thanks Chris, on that basis let's try 11 am then, looks ok for other NZTA attendees too.

Brent

From: Chris Rodley <chris.rodley@nzta.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 28 August 2025 2:13 pm

To: Brent Lewers <Brent.Lewers@nzta.govt.nz>; Max Christie <M.Christie@transport.govt.nz>

Cc: Mike Hargreaves <Mike.Hargreaves@nzta.govt.nz>; Tessa Ayson <T.Ayson@transport.govt.nz>; Larisa Logvina <Larisa.Logvina@nzta.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Tesla update on Full Self Driving (Supervised) - § 9(2)(b)(ii)

On the § 9(2)(b)(ii) can move whatever is needed to fit in with others.

From: Brent Lewers <Brent.Lewers@nzta.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 28 August 2025 12:09 pm

To: Chris Rodley <chris.rodley@nzta.govt.nz>; Max Christie <M.Christie@transport.govt.nz>
Cc: Mike Hargreaves <Mike.Hargreaves@nzta.govt.nz>; Tessa Ayson <T.Ayson@transport.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Tesla update on Full Self Driving (Supervised) - s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Thanks Chris

Max, apologies for not getting back to you on this yesterday. It was fairly solidly taken up with getting information across to the Minister's office and out to Police. Tesla has advised us that the s 9(2)(b)(ii) One of the motoring media outlets has already picked this up (see attached), so there will be some media coverage. This is an independent publication so not directly connected to the big media outlets, but it seems to me that if Autocar s 9(2)(b)(ii) then it's likely to have gone to a range of others too.

A joint meeting sounds like a good idea; Chris, I'm imagining time constraints might mean we can talk at a high level about our proposed approach but not land the detail.

The challenge is that we don't seem to be able to land a time on the s 9(2)(b)(ii) that works for both Chris and Tesla, so I'm about to go back to Tesla and ask what times they can do on the s 9(2)(b)(ii) I get the impression s 9(2)(b)(ii) , but Chris is s 9(2)(b)(ii) anyway.

Team MoT, can you let me know your availability on the s 9(2)(b)(ii) ?

Thanks, Brent

From: Chris Rodley <chris.rodley@nzta.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 28 August 2025 11:48 am
To: Max Christie <M.Christie@transport.govt.nz>; Brent Lewers <Brent.Lewers@nzta.govt.nz>
Cc: Mike Hargreaves <Mike.Hargreaves@nzta.govt.nz>; Tessa Ayson <T.Ayson@transport.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Tesla update on Full Self Driving (Supervised) - s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Thanks Max. I'm supportive of a joint meeting with MoT with Tesla - @Brent Lewers any issues from you?

From: Max Christie <M.Christie@transport.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 5:40 pm
To: Chris Rodley <chris.rodley@nzta.govt.nz>; Brent Lewers <Brent.Lewers@nzta.govt.nz>
Cc: Mike Hargreaves <Mike.Hargreaves@nzta.govt.nz>; Tessa Ayson <T.Ayson@transport.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Tesla update on Full Self Driving (Supervised) - s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Hi both,

Thanks for the update.

I do think that we should give the Minister a heads up and some information to ready him for the inevitable media interest. Key thing is to clarify the limits/safeguards of FSD – Supervised, Out of Scope He should also have some contextual information about FSD in other jurisdictions and the scale of expected uptake. Out of Scope

I'm happy to help add things to a note as needed and will make sure our person in the Minister's office is aware tomorrow.

Also – Tesla have reached out to meet with us as well on the ^{s 9(2)(b)(iii)} It may make sense for us to just have one meeting, together?

Max

From: Chris Rodley <chris.rodley@nzta.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 4:55 pm
To: Brent Lewers <Brent.Lewers@nzta.govt.nz>; Max Christie <M.Christie@transport.govt.nz>
Cc: Mike Hargreaves <Mike.Hargreaves@nzta.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Tesla update on Full Self Driving (Supervised) - ^{s 9(2)(b)(ii)}

Hi Brent and Max,

Thank you for your time just now to discuss 1. Tesla Full Self Drive – Supervised and ^{Out of Scope}

As discussed, ^{s 9(2)(b)(ii)}

^{Out of Scope}

^{@Brent Lewers @Max Christie} I would like to seek your advice and support to provide an update to the Minister.

^{@Max Christie} Full Self Drive – Supervised will be released ^{s 9(2)(b)(ii)}. Do you think we need to provide the Minister with a heads up? What do you think he would want to know? Given your previous ^{s 9(2)(b)(ii)}

^{Out of Scope}

^{Out of Scope}

^{@Brent Lewers} have you had any contact with the Police or the NZTA internal Police liaison team to give Police a heads up the FSD-Supervised is coming out and to reassure them the driver remains responsible and accountable? Or do you need Regulatory to pick that up?

Look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Chris
Chris Rodley (he/him)
National Manager Regulatory System Design
Regulatory
Te Ropu Waeture

Email: chris.rodley@nzta.govt.nz
Phone: ^{s 9(2)(a)}
Mobile: ^{s 9(2)(a)}

Lara Logvina
Personal Assistant | Kaiāwhina Tumuaki

Email: Larisa.Logvina@nzta.govt.nz DDI: s 9(2)(a)

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi

44 Bowen Street
Private Bag 6995, Wellington 6141, New Zealand

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From: Brent Lewers <Brent.Lewers@nzta.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 4:17 pm
To: Max Christie <M.Christie@transport.govt.nz>
Cc: Chris Rodley <chris.rodley@nzta.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Tesla update on Full Self Driving (Supervised) - s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Max, as discussed.

Please note confidentiality s 9(2)(b)(ii) This is not a complete surprise; Tesla has said they were working on getting it released in NZ but no date was specified. So this is likely to get some attention amongst the Tesla community, and wider.

To be clear, FSD-S is Level 2 ADAS and Tesla is very clear in its instructions to owners that their full attention and ability to intervene is required. Here's the link to the US owner's manual (FSD-S):
https://www.tesla.com/ownersmanual/modely/en_us/GUID-2CB60804-9CEA-4F4B-8B04-09B991368DC5.html

Worth noting a few things:

- This can be retrofitted to existing vehicles by download (there are about s 9(2)(b)(ii))
- This can be ordered as an option for new vehicles (selling at several thousand per year)
- It's expensive – **NZD\$11,400** for the life of the vehicle
- It's similarly pretty pricey in the US, and uptake is widely considered to be pretty low – estimates are 2% - although Elon says it's much more, although won't give any actual numbers ...

Happy to provide any further information, and will keep you across this as it develops.

Regards, Brent

Brent Lewers (he/him)

Principal Advisor
System Strategy

Te Tūāpae - System Leadership

Email: brent.lewers@nzta.govt.nz
Phone: +s 9(2)(a)

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi
44 Bowen Street
Private Bag 6995, Wellington 6141, New Zealand

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From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 25 August 2025 2:11 pm
To: s 9(2)(a)
Cc:
Subject: Tesla update on Full Self Driving (Supervised) - s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Good afternoon,

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Thank you for your ongoing support.

We wanted to give you an early heads up that Tesla will very shortly s 9(2)(b)(ii) be releasing [Full Self Driving \(Supervised\)](#) to customers in s 9(2)(b)(ii) and New Zealand.

We expect there will be some media and public attention on release, so wanted to ensure you are aware and in a position to show your ongoing leadership in this space.

As previously discussed, and for the avoidance of doubt:

- FSD (Supervised) remains an SAE Level 2 ADAS system requiring active driver supervision and with active driver attention monitoring (including in-cabin camera and warnings if drivers are inattentive at any moment).
- Please refer to the [FSD \(Supervised\) Owner's Manual](#) that provides further background and publicly available information on Tesla's FSD (Supervised) capability, safety, and attention monitoring features.

Happy to discuss any of the above, so if you have any questions or would like further details on FSD, s 9(2)(b)(ii), please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thanks,

s 9(2)(a)

Tesla Policy
Australia

M. s 9(2)(a) s 9(2)(a) @tesla.com



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Wellington (Head Office) | Ground Floor, 3 Queens Wharf | PO Box 3175 | Wellington 6011 | NEW ZEALAND | Tel: +64 4 439 9000 |

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Max Christie

From: Tessa Ayson
Sent: Tuesday, 23 September 2025 3:03 pm
To: Max Christie
Subject: Re: Tesla in WR

Out of Scope
 [Redacted]

From: Max Christie <M.Christie@transport.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 3:02 PM
To: Tessa Ayson <T.Ayson@transport.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Tesla in WR

Nice was going to ask about this. Any surprises?

From: Tessa Ayson <T.Ayson@transport.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 September 2025 3:01 pm
To: Chris Rodley <chris.rodley@nzta.govt.nz>
Cc: Ihsana Ageel <ihsana.ageel@nzta.govt.nz>; Brent Lewers <Brent.Lewers@nzta.govt.nz>; Max Christie <M.Christie@transport.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Tesla in WR

Nope, but thanks for checking in. As we noted in our briefing I think our concern from a policy/leg perspective is establishing liability - we'll keep an eye on developments here [Redacted]

From: Chris Rodley <chris.rodley@nzta.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 5:16 PM
To: Tessa Ayson <T.Ayson@transport.govt.nz>
Cc: Ihsana Ageel <ihsana.ageel@nzta.govt.nz>; Brent Lewers <Brent.Lewers@nzta.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Tesla in WR

Hi Tessa,

Yep – the wonderful Ihsana and Brent will get one together.

You all good with the conversation today? No concerns with how this is likely to roll out operationally?

Kind regards,
 Chris

From: Tessa Ayson <T.Ayson@transport.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 19 September 2025 3:33 pm

To: Chris Rodley <chris.rodley@nzta.govt.nz>

Subject: Tesla in WR

Hi Chris,

Just wanted to confirm that you guys will include a meeting summary in the next Weekly Report? We won't put one in ours if so.

Thanks!

Tessa Ayson

Kaiwhakahaere | Manager, Strategic Priorities

Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport

M: s 9(2)(a) E: T.Ayson@transport.govt.nz | transport.govt.nz



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Document 5: Minister Bishop Weekly Report WC 25 August 2025

[COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE] Tesla - Upcoming Announcement

We have been informed that Tesla plan to release "Full Self Drive - Supervised" as a purchasable software update to their existing New Zealand fleet in the week of 25 August. Full Self Drive - Supervised is partially autonomous in that it does all of the driving for you but requires active driver supervision and with active driver attention monitoring (including in-cabin camera and warnings if drivers are inattentive at any moment). NZTA has indicated that it meets all existing land transport rules.

We are meeting with Tesla on Tuesday 16 September 2025 to discuss this release and other developments. *Out of Scope*

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