OC260560

24 July 2026

[redacted]

I refer to your email received by the Ministry of Transport, now part of the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport (the Ministry) on 1 July 2026 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. "Any briefings, reports, or cost estimates held by MoT regarding conversion of NZ roads to right-hand traffic and imperial signage
2. Any correspondence between MoT, NZTA, or MBIE regarding FMVSS vehicle compliance and traffic flow direction
3. Any legal advice on conflicts between Land Transport Act 1998 and US federal highway standards post-statehood

Context: MBIE Case 40211 confirms FMVSS vehicles legal. Public analysis indicates right-hand traffic likely required, eventually when NZ becomes US state."

The Ministry does not hold the information you are seeking, and we have no grounds to believe it is held by any other department. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

If you would like to discuss this decision with us, please do not hesitate to contact us at OIA@mcert.govt.nz.

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.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on its website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā

Hilary Penman
Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services
Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport