



OC191040

11 November 2019

[REDACTED]

withheld under s9(2)(a)

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request dated 5 October 2019, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, to the Hon Peeni Henare. On 21 October 2019 the following parts of that request were transferred to the Ministry of Transport:

- 1. In the event of AF8 or another serious civil emergency occurring in Wellington, is the government concerned that the trains in Auckland may be affected - even cancelled for an unknown period of time?*
- 2. In that event, how long would trains be affected? For as long as Wellington was affected, which could be months?*
- 3. Are there plans to change this situation so that Auckland trains are managed and run from Auckland? And how was that system set up in the first place, who did that?*

The Ministry of Transport does not hold specific documentation covering these questions as we are not directly responsible for train control in Auckland. However, the Ministry of Transport has the following information in answer to your questions.

- 1. In the event of AF8 or another serious civil emergency occurring in Wellington, is the government concerned that the trains in Auckland may be affected - even cancelled for an unknown period of time?*

There is an alternate National Train Control Centre based in Palmerston North, which can be activated if the National Train Control Centre in Wellington is unable to be used. Additionally there are certified Train Controllers based in Auckland which can act as a redundancy for train control operations where required.

We would expect a short disruption to national train operations to occur during the transition from the Wellington National Train Control Centre, to the Palmerston North National Train Control Centre (or to Train Controllers in Auckland), however this disruption is within accepted tolerance levels.

2. *In that event, how long would trains be affected? For as long as Wellington was affected, which could be months?*

Please refer to the response to question 1.

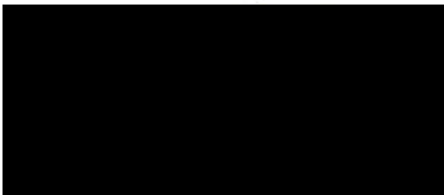
3. *Are there plans to change this situation so that Auckland trains are managed and run from Auckland? And how was that system set up in the first place, who did that?*

Please refer to the response to question 1. The Ministry of Transport is not aware of any plans to set up a Train Control Centre in Auckland.

If you would like further information regarding train control operations we suggest that you contact KiwiRail, please see <https://www.kiwirail.co.nz/contact-us>.

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

Yours sincerely



Shelley Tucker  
**Manager, Resilience and Security**  
**Ministry of Transport**

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cc: Hon. Penni Henare, Minister of Civil Defence