

OC220419

21 June 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), seeking:

- “1. What advice has the Ministry supplied to the Minister of Transport, on audible warning devices or bells on bicycles, since 1 January 2019?*
- 2. What consultation or engagement has the Ministry had with the public, stakeholders, or the cycle industry, on audible warning devices or bells on bicycles, since 1 January 2019?”*

Three documents fall within scope of your request:

Doc #	Date	Document Title	Description of information withheld/refused
1	9 March 2020	Preliminary Regulatory Impact Statement Accessible Streets	Refused under s18(d), as it is publicly available.
2	16 April 2021	OC200879 INITIAL BRIEFING ON THE ACCESSIBLE STREETS REGULATORY PACKAGE – Appendix F: Summary of Submissions	Withheld under s9(2)(f)(iv), as it is under active consideration.
3	Withheld in full under s9(2)(f)(iv), as it is under active consideration.		

Documents one and two contain information regarding consultation and advice on audible warning devices or bells on bicycles. Document one was a part of the Accessible Streets public consultation package released in March 2020. It contains discussion on the options of making bells on bicycles mandatory on footpaths and shared paths, or not making bells mandatory but having a marketing campaign encouraging their use. This discussion is found on pages 38 to 41 and more information regarding a potential public campaign on bells is found on pages 48, 54 and 63.

Document one is publicly available and is therefore being refused under section 18(d) of the Act. You can find this at <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/consultation/accessible-streets/accessible-streets-ris.pdf>

Documents two and three are being withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice

tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. This is because the information contained is currently under active consideration.

Regarding the information that has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, I am of the opinion that there are no countervailing considerations that make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act to make a complaint about the withholding of information to the Ombudsman. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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 website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Skinner', with a stylized, flowing script.

Matthew Skinner  
**Acting Manager Mobility and Safety**  
**Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport**