

OC250002

14 January 2025

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 2 January 2025, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"I came across the webpage titled Drones in New Zealand on your website (<https://www.transport.govt.nz/area-of-interest/technology-and-innovation/drones-in-new-zealand>), but I noticed that the last update was provided in May 2021. Given the rapid advancements in drone technology and its increasing importance across various sectors, I was wondering if there have been any significant developments since then.

Specifically, I am keen to learn about:

- Any updates on the progress or revisions to the 101.207 Airspace sub-rules concerning property or landowner consent - 101.207(a)(1)(i) and 101.207(a)(1)(ii)?*
- Progress on collaborative efforts between the Ministry, CAA, and industry stakeholders.*
- Future directions or policies under consideration for enabling innovation while ensuring public safety."*

As you are aware, on 6 January 2025 the first part of your request was transferred to the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand (CAA) for a response. This was because that information is more closely connected with the functions of the CAA. You can expect a response from them in due course.

Regarding the other parts of your request, the Government is introducing changes to the regulatory environment to support the growth of advanced aviation in New Zealand. The changes will ensure the system is efficient and easier to navigate for innovators testing their technology and ideas. The work supports the Government's goal to have a world-class regulatory environment by the end of 2025 that allows rapid iteration and testing of advanced aviation vehicles and technologies. The Ministry of Transport is working in collaboration with the CAA to implement the changes. Industry will be consulted as part of the normal Rule-making process.

You can access information about this on our website at this link: www.transport.govt.nz/area-of-interest/technology-and-innovation/advanced-aviation

I am therefore refusing parts two and three of your request under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is publicly 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



Hilary Penman
Manager, Accountability & Correspondence