

16 February 2018

Jay Boreham  
 Senior Reporter  
 Rodney Times  
[jay.boreham@fairfaxmedia.co.nz](mailto:jay.boreham@fairfaxmedia.co.nz)

REF: OIA-3506

Dear Jay

Thank you for your email of 23 January 2018 requesting further information about the letter sequence of registration plates. Your request has been considered under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Your questions and my responses are outlined below.

1. *For general plates, what variation of letters started to be issued at the start of 2017.*

For general purpose plates on a standard motor vehicle, the variation of letters issued at the beginning of 2017 were KHJ.

2. *How many registration plates were issued in 2017.*

There were 495,386 registration plates issued in 2017.

3. *Can I get a list of general plate number letters, for all years, which were excluded because they were deemed to be offensive, derogatory, obscene, profane and promoting violence, discrimination or bias? Or if this will be a drawn out process, just for 2017.*

Please find below the general plate letter sequences excluded from production from March 2001 to 26 January 2018:

ANC	ARC	ARS	ASS	BAD
BAG	BAT	BRA	BUM	BUT
CNT	CUM	CUN	DUM	EBA
ESY	EZE	EZY	FAG	FAT
FCC	FCK	FCM	FCN	FDA
FKN	FKU	FQM	FQN	FUV
FUK	FUQ	FUZ	GUT	HAG
HUA	JAP	JEW	KFC	KGB
KKK	KLL	KNT	KUM	

*4. And I wondered if I could get some clarification/verification around why some letter combinations I noticed were excluded*

*- BUM and BUT - Is this because of their use to describe people's rear ends?*

*- CUM and KUM - because of the sexual connotations?*

*- JAP - because of the racial connotations?*

*- KGB and KKK - could I get the explanation why these two variations were excluded.*

*- JEW - just wanted clarification on why this was excluded. Is it because of discrimination and violence towards Jews and also because of the fact Jews were tattooed with numbers at concentration camps during WWII so very inappropriate?*

*- KLL - because it is close to 'kill'*

The NZ Transport Agency does not record an individual reason against each plate sequence to be excluded. All letter sequences are measured against the guidelines provided in my letter of 18 January 2018 to you (ref. OIA-3427) and are excluded for one of those reasons.

*5. I noticed FTP wasn't on the list of excluded plates, was this an oversight?*

The FTP plate series were approved for release after consultation with the NZ Police.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Manager Media, by email to [andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz) or by phone on 04 894 6285.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Charlton', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Michelle Charlton**

Senior Manager Customer Service Centre