

27 April 2018

Paul Hobbs
Reporter
TVNZ
Paul.Hobbs@tvnz.co.nz

REF: OIA-3703

Dear Paul

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 28 March 2018 requesting the following information about Thompson and Clark Investigations Limited (TCIL) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I am after the number of requests made to NZTA for ownership details based on submitted registration plate numbers by private investigation company Thompson and Clark.

I would like to go back to the beginning of 2013 and if possible get a monthly breakdown of the number of requests made to your agency.

Your request has been considered under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Accordingly, please find a table below detailing the number of licence plate queries completed by TCIL by year and month as part of their authorised access to name and address information held on the Motor Vehicle Register (MVR).

Year	Month												Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2013	122	112	150	144	41	51	17	123	140	45	38	59	1042
2014	287	86	57	23	41	25	23	44	116	105	114	50	971
2015	29	29	24	8	11	13	14	53	34	31	36	40	322
2016	28	27	17	9	23	5	22	34	11	221	143	92	632
2017	68	106	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	184

To provide background to your request, historically the MVR was a public register and the NZ Transport Agency was obliged to release the name and address of a registered person whenever these details were applied for. This meant that there was no visibility as to why information was being released and how that information was being used. On 1 May 2011, the Land Transport Act 1998 (the LTA) was amended to significantly restrict access to information of registered or previously registered persons.

In order to assist organisations that have a legitimate need for access to registered person information held on the MVR, such as insurers, finance companies and motor vehicle traders, a new type of authorisation was provided under section 241 of the LTA. Prior to granting an authorisation the Transport Agency consults with the Office of the Ombudsman, Office of the Privacy Commissioner and the Police Commissioner.

It is worth noting that TCIL do not currently have authorised access to the MVR. For a current list of companies and individuals who have been granted authorised access to the MVR, please refer to the following link: www.nzta.govt.nz/s241

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager Media, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on 04 8946285.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Charlton', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michelle Charlton

Senior Manager Customer Service Centre