

**From:** [Niclas Johansson](#)  
**To:** [Richard Bean](#); [Mark Edwards](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Your view on a safety issue?  
**Date:** Thursday, 19 April 2018 4:38:20 PM

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Fyi

I drafted the letter below for Harry to get an independent opinion

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Harry Wilson [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) >  
**Date:** 19 April 2018 at 8:34:39 AM NZST  
**To:** [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Niclas Johansson](#) [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#), [Emma Speight](#)  
[s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#), [Glenn Bunting](#)  
[s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Your view on a safety issue?

Thanks so much..this is what I thought

Sent from my iPhone

On 18/04/2018, at 4:54 PM, [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)  
[s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) > wrote:

Hi Harry

At first glance I feel it could be a significant safety risk for disabled people and I wouldn't feel happy about it going ahead without significant assessment and comment from Blind Foundation experts.

For a wheelchair user it could be confusing as you can't see ahead to navigate as well as a standing person and there's often lots of walking pedestrians, who are tall and block longer distance view, for obvious reasons! However, people who are blind, or who have a significant visual impairment rely on standard pedestrian design to navigate their way around the city and safely cross roads. This is potentially very confusing for them as well as being unsafe,

Best

[s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

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**From:** Harry Wilson [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 April 2018 9:08 a.m.  
**To:** [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Niclas Johansson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Your view on a safety issue?

Hi [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

My group in the Transport Agency has a task of setting and maintaining road safety standards to keep people as safe as possible as they use the transport system as you will be aware. We are dealing with an issue in Wellington which I would dearly

like to get your opinion on. It relates to a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Dixon Street and Cuba Mall. Dixon Street is a busy inner city street and Cuba Mall is for pedestrians only and as such carries a high number of pedestrians.

Currently the intersection has two signalised crossing points for pedestrians, one at either side of Cuba Mall and they are located where a footpath would normally run as an extension across Dixon Street. Each has “calling points” to call for traffic to stop, and a green man for pedestrians to cross.

Wellington City has proposed to install a rainbow coloured pedestrian crossing as per attached plan, between the signalised crossing points. This is to celebrate the LGBT community in that part of the city. According to rules set for traffic signs and road markings, this is not legal a) because the colour coding of road markings is very prescriptive as to their meaning, and b) road markings or signs are not supposed to promote a cause or a product regardless of its worthiness or value.

But aside from the legalities I am asking for your view as to whether you consider this a safety issue for people with disabilities. I recall your and s 9(2)(a) presentation to Traffinz last year and your call for consistent and clear traffic markings and pedestrian design. Is there any chance that the rainbow crossing could be misinterpreted as a zebra crossing and create a risk for people with disabilities and to an unsuspecting pedestrian, which could have serious or possibly fatal consequences? Could it be confusing and distracting to drivers along Dixon Street creating hazardous situations? What do you think?

We have worked with Wellington City to promote options of creating such rainbow features on parts of Cuba Street where it could not be misunderstood as a road marking, but a message or a cause only. They are adamantly wanting to proceed, but we do not agree this is a safe and acceptable solution in keeping people safe. Are we overstating the risk?

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[www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz)

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