

MINO-0427 Use of “also known as” for driver licence purposes

19 July 2022

Waka Kotahi has been asked for information to assist with a response to a suggestion for alternative names to be recorded on an individual's driver licence.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

The purpose of the New Zealand driver licensing system is to support road safety with the function of the Photo Driver Licence (PDL) being to provide evidence that the holder has met the competency requirements needed for driving safely on the road network. Although it is recognised that driver licences have become a readily accessible and widely used form of identification for non-driving situations, only an enforcement officer acting in the course of their traffic related duties has the statutory power to demand to see a person's licence.

This statutory framework means that the PDL is not intended as a generalised form of identity and in all non-driving situations, the use of a driver licence as a form of identification is at the sole discretion and convenience of the holder.

As the road safety and driver licensing regulator, Waka Kotahi has the responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the Driver Licence Register, which includes only issuing a driver licence in an individual's legal name. This aligns with section 28 of the Land Transport Act 1998 which makes provision for only one full name and signature to be displayed on each valid licence issued and helps minimise the risk of identity manipulation and related licensing fraud for law enforcement evasion.

However, transport laws, like all other laws, are reviewed from time to time to ensure they are fit for purpose. When changes to transport law are proposed, the public is invited to make submissions. As the constituent's suggestion would likely require legislative changes to the Rule, public consultation would be a good mechanism for them to share their ideas.

While there are no current plans to review the relevant legislation at this time, should they wish to register their interest and be notified of when this may be reviewed in future, they are able to do so on the Waka Kotahi website at:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/registration-of-interest-in-land-transport-rules/>