

14 May 2024

[REDACTED]
Kia ora [REDACTED]

Bus Infringements

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 15 April 2024. You requested the following information:

I have been told WCC/Parking Services has begun issuing infringement notices/fines to bus companies when drivers are snapped not using dedicated bus lanes when they are available.

1. Is this correct? And given I heard it from a parking warden monitoring a bus lane, I am assuming it is.
 - If so, when did the regime start, and why?
 - What is the infringement notice/ticket for? Surely, they can drive on the road like any other vehicle even if there is a bus lane available?
 - How much is the fine imposed?
 - How many of these tickets have been issued? Total of fines collected?
 - Outstanding? (i.e. not paid)
 - Where are the infringements occurring?
 - Which companies have been issued notices?

2. The number of infringement notices issued to all vehicles driving in bus lanes in Wellington over the last six months including:
 - highest noncompliance area
 - Value of tickets
 - Number of infringement notices waived
 - Any idea of main offenders (As in commercial or private vehicles?)

3. Has monitoring increased? Is there any thought to putting in camera surveillance rather than having parking wardens doing it?

Wellington City Council has partly granted your request for information.

Question 1

I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify your statement made regarding your below comments around bus lane enforcement:

I have been told WCC/Parking Services has begun issuing infringement notices/fines to bus companies when drivers are snapped not using dedicated bus lanes when they are available.

There are two types of bus lane ([special lane](#)) offences that Parking Officers have authority to issue, they are:

- Unauthorised Use of a special vehicle lane - defined by the [Land Transport \(Road User\) Rule 2004](#) , under section 2.3.
- Parking within a special vehicle lane - defined by the [Land Transport \(Road User\) Rule 2004](#), under section 6.6.

Offences are controlled by three pieces legislation; [Land Transport Act 1998](#), [Land Transport \(Road User\) Rule 2004](#) and [Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2021](#). There is no offence for buses when travelling outside of a dedicated bus lane and therefore no such infringement has ever been issued to a bus.

We are refusing this part of your request under section 17(g) of the Act because the requested information does not exist.

Question 2

The number of infringement notices issued to all vehicles driving in bus lanes in Wellington over the last six months?

For the period 1 October 2023 to 1 April 2024 a total of 4,225 infringements were issued to vehicles driving in a bus lane and/or bus only lane. Of the 4,225 infringements issued, 170 were warnings as opposed to infringements. This typically occurs where a new bus lane has been introduced and the Council issues warnings for a period as people get used to the changed road layout.

Of these, the highest noncompliance area?

The Riddiford Street Bus Lane.

The value of tickets

The total value of these infringements issued is \$594,450.

The number of infringement notices waived?

A total of 112 infringements were waived.

Any idea of main offenders (As in commercial or private vehicles?)

To answer this part of your request would require substantial collation as each infringement will need to be checked to confirm the type of vehicle the infringement was issued to, and if the vehicle was registered to a private individual or company. Therefore, we are refusing this part of your request under section 17(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. However, we anticipate the majority of these infringements were issued to private vehicles.

Question 3

Has monitoring increased? Is there any thought to putting in camera surveillance rather than having parking wardens doing it?

To help make buses more reliable and efficient on the busiest commuter routes in the city the Council is introducing fixed cameras to monitor key bus lanes and bus stops.

Work is currently underway to progressively introduce cameras and more information on the location of the first cameras to be installed will be released shortly on our website.

Right of review

If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note, we may proactively release our response to your request with your personal information removed.

Thank you again for your request,

Kind regards

Ollie Marchant
Official Information