

**Government Response to
Report of the Petitions Committee
on the
Petition of Carjam Online Ltd: Reverse plans
for the NZTA to charge for free stolen status
data in October**

**Presented to the House of Representatives
In accordance with Standing Order 256**

Government response to Report of Petitions Committee on the Petition of Carjam Online Ltd: Reverse plans for the NZTA to charge for free stolen status data in October

Introduction

- 1 The Government has carefully considered the Petitions Committee's 'Report the Petition of Carjam Online Ltd: Reverse plans for the NZTA to charge for free stolen status data in October'.
- 2 The Government responds to the report in accordance with Standing Order 256.
- 3 The Committee's recommendations have been investigated and no further action is considered necessary.

Recommendations and government response

- 4 Recommendation 1: "We recommend to the Government that it investigate whether there are discrepancies between the NZTA Motor Vehicle Register and the Police website and, if so, that steps be taken to ensure that both sources of official information are accurate and up-to-date".
- 5 Response: New Zealand Police (**Police**) information on stolen vehicles is extracted from its 'vehicle of interest database' and imported into the Police website database as live data. The live data is updated every ten minutes (previously this was hourly) and kept for six months.
- 6 The Motor Vehicle Register also receives real-time updates from the 'vehicle of interest database' and can be immediately accessed for a fee. Because the Police website is updated every ten minutes, there is a lag between Police public facing data and the Motor Vehicle Register for a maximum of ten minutes.
- 7 Police is considered the main source of data on stolen vehicles, and the New Zealand Transport Agency (**NZTA**) directs members of the public to Police in the first instance for reports or queries regarding stolen vehicles.
- 8 However, Police is not able to guarantee the accuracy of this information as it is entirely dependent on the registered owner of a vehicle reporting it stolen, and on registered owners confirming whether they have recovered a vehicle that they previously reported stolen. This means there can be a delay in stolen vehicles appearing and in recovered vehicles being cleared from the list, or that some vehicles listed as stolen may have been located but Police haven't been advised.
- 9 These limitations are clearly communicated on the Police website. Police consider that these limitations are reasonable and meet the needs of most

users and as a result do not have plans to change the current methods of data collection and storage.

- 10 The Petitions Committee also encouraged NZTA to revisit the assumptions made in its business model regarding calculations for charges for commercial use of data in the Motor Vehicle Register. There is an opportunity to consider these points during an upcoming NZTA funding review.

Conclusion

- 11 In conclusion, the Government has investigated whether there are discrepancies between the NZTA Motor Vehicle Register and the Police website regarding information on stolen vehicles, and whether steps need to be taken to ensure that both sources of official information are accurate and up-to-date.
- 12 Given that discrepancies between the Motor Vehicle Register and public facing Police dataset are limited, and that the limitations on the accuracy of stolen vehicle data are considered reasonable, no further action is considered necessary.