

From: Frank Plunkett
Sent: Friday, 30 June 2023 10:24 AM
To: Hannah Whittle; Oliver Armstrong; Stuart Stark
Cc: Alana Tibbitts; @Minister Bailey Media
Subject: FW: HANDOVER - Translink / Governance
Attachments: Irrelevant

Hi policy team,

Just doing a quick handover of Irrelevant key dates and relevant docs.

Irrelevant

Thanks all,
Frank

Irrelevant

Governance Key Dates

- RTI-3371 – personal inf Taxi Criminal offences [DEPARTMENTAL RTI] - earliest possible release 5 July (attached) – Hannah, Media and I will aiming to do page turn with department.

Irrelevant

From: Michael P Cormack <Michael.Cormack@translink.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 July 2023 10:30 AM
To: Lesley Major; Charlton Hart
Cc: Translink Media; @Minister Bailey Media; Cameron Y Leslie
Subject: FW: FYI ONLY - RTI-3371 - RTI Application by Seven Network - personal informa
Taxi/ride booking drivers charged with criminal offences - documents have been supplied
Attachments: Hot Issues Brief | Seven News RTI-3371 - documents proposed for release | Translink media NR

Hi team,

As you may have seen below, the documents for this RTI have gone back to the journalist today. Just resending the attached HIB that we have previously sent up for your convenience.

Please let us know if you need anything further.

Cheers.

Michael Cormack
Principal Advisor (Media)
Office of the Deputy Director-General | Translink Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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Schedule 2 Part 2 - RTI processing document

Page 4 redacted for the following reason:

Schedule 2 Part 2 - RTI processing document

From: Translink Media <Translink.Media@translink.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 30 June 2023 1:50 PM
To: Lesley Major; Charlton Hart
Cc: @Minister Bailey Media; Cameron Y Leslie; Translink Media; Michael P Cormack
Subject: Hot Issues Brief | Seven News RTI-3371 - documents proposed for release | Translink media^{NR}
Attachments: RTI-3371 Proposed Release.pdf

Hi team,

personal info from Seven News has made an RTI application asking for a 'table of DA holders (taxi and booked hire drivers) who have been charged with a criminal offence since 1 January 2022.'

This is a repeat of an application submitted last year, with last year's story appearing in February <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1055105525050906>

- A 7 News investigation has uncovered documents revealing more than 150 ride share drivers were before Queensland courts last year. Transport **Minister Mark Bailey** says, "we've got strong procedures to take people out of the industry". Blair Davies, Taxi Council Queensland says "security cameras are very important in a cab".

The story from last year said 153 drivers were charged with a criminal offence in 10 months, with 15 classified as serious. The current RTI response covers 15 months and lists 154 drivers charged, with 25 classified as serious.

Last year's HIB has been updated with new numbers and beefed up content, particularly around the definition of (serious) categories for driver disqualifying offences.

Seven News will be advised of the cost of access to this RTI material on 5 July.

For your attention.

29.06.23

Hot Issues Brief – Criminal charges against taxi and booked hire drivers – 7 News Brisbane – RTI 3371

More than 38 million taxi and booked hire trips are undertaken annually, with the overwhelming majority taken safely and without incident.

About 20,800 taxi and booked hire licence holders work to transport passengers safely and the vast majority of drivers who were charged with a criminal offence did not commit the offence while driving a taxi or booked hire vehicle.

However, safety is our number one priority and that is why there are regulations that taxi, limousine and rideshare operators need to follow when hiring a driver, and there are processes in place to ensure the safety of passengers:

- The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) conducts a criminal history check as part of the Booked Hire/Taxi Driver Authorisation, which a person must hold before they can drive for a taxi, limousine or rideshare operator.
- Queensland Police Service notifies TMR of any criminal charge against a taxi or booked hire driver and where there are grounds to do so, TMR suspends or cancels the person's Driver Authorisation as soon as possible.
- In cases where an operator notifies TMR of an incident, TMR immediately reports the incident to QPS.
- All taxis and rideshare vehicles that meet the relevant risk criteria must be fitted with approved security cameras for the safety of drivers and passengers.
- Approved security camera systems can be and have been used to prosecute offenders.

Background

On May 4, 2023 personal i of the Seven Network lodged an RTI application requesting access to:

1. Spreadsheet/table of DA holders (taxi and booked hire drivers) who have been charged with a criminal offence since 1 January 2022.

2. Document/s (specifically documents to summarise the actual criminal charges and an overview of DA holders who have been charged) from 1 January 2022 relating to South East Queensland (Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast) taxi drivers or ride sharing services such as Uber, who have been charged with criminal offences.

Date range for request: 1 January 2022 to 4 May 2023.

A document comprised of 204 A4 pages was collated, and the access decision will be issued to the applicant on July 5, 2023.

The documents show that in the applicant's date range (*1 January 2022 to 4 May 2023*), there have been 154 instances of taxi, rideshare and limousine drivers being charged with a range of offences including - but not limited to - possession of drugs and weapons, arson, serious assault, domestic violence offences, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, sexual offences (including rape, indecent treatment of children) and fraud.

In the documents details are provided of offences committed by listed DA holders. The Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 (TOPTA) prescribes various offences as 'driver disqualifying offences.' There are three categories of driver disqualifying offences; Category A, Category B and Category C.

Category A - These are the most serious offences. They are when a person has been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for an offence, or is subject to an order or obligation under section 170(b) of the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000. A person who has been charged or convicted of a Category A offence is not eligible to apply for or hold DA. If the person has an active DA, TMR will immediately suspend or cancel the DA when notification of the offence is received.

Category B – Where the person is charged or has been convicted of a serious offence listed in the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and TOPTA, that is not considered a Category A disqualifying

offence. Or has committed a Category A offence, is at least 18 years of age and no imprisonment is imposed. For this range of offences a person must provide a written case of exceptional circumstances in relation to the offence. If there is no exceptional circumstance DA may not be held. TMR will provide the DA holder with notice of the intent to suspend or cancel the DA.

Category C - These offences are of a less serious nature and are classed as either “high” range offences or “low” range offences depending on their classification in the relevant Act – the Criminal Code, Drugs Misuse Act or Weapons Act. TMR may consider taking action against the DA to provide notice of the intent to suspend the DA taking into account the type of offence and previous history of the DA holder.

The documents also include a spreadsheet listing Actions as ‘Follow-up’ and ‘Finalised.’ These are not actions taken by TMR against the DA holder and relate to the offences either still pending or being finalised in Magistrates Court.

It is anticipated the release of the documents will generate media coverage on the charges against taxi, limousine and rideshare drivers, and potentially pose questions about passenger safety.

ENDS

Cheers

Andy Christie
Senior Media Officer
Office of the Deputy Director-General | Translink Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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.....
The Department of Transport and Main Roads acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways.
We also acknowledge their ancestors and Elders both past and present.
The Department of Transport and Main Roads is committed to reconciliation among all Australians.
.....

From: Douglas C Estwick <Douglas.Estwick@translink.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 August 2023 6:49 PM
To: Charlton Hart
Cc: Lesley Major; Cameron Y Leslie; Media; Translink Media
Subject: RE: News story

Hi Charlton,

We agree with that approach and can contact perso regarding the first two questions.

A response to the third question will be drafted and come from the TMR Corp media team as it sits with them. They are across it and CC'd here as well.

Kind regards,
Doug

Douglas Estwick
Senior Advisor - Media
Office of the Deputy Director-General | Translink Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

P: 07 3338 4040 NR
Floor 1 | 61 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 50 | Brisbane Qld 4001
douglas.estwick@translink.com.au
www.translink.com.au
www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From: Charlton Hart <Charlton.Hart@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 August 2023 4:04 PM
To: Cameron Y Leslie <Cameron.Leslie@translink.com.au>
Cc: Douglas C Estwick <Douglas.Estwick@translink.com.au>; Lesley Major <Lesley.Major@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: News story

Hey Cam/Doug,

Just spoke with Alana – she agrees that if the first 2 questions are resource intensive then they should be subject to another RTI application.

If you agree – we think it would be best for you to respond to her on the first two advising of this.

A drafted response to the third question would be fine.

Thanks,



Queensland
Government

Charlton Hart
Media Advisor
Office of the Hon. Mark Bailey MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
& Minister for Digital Services

P (07) 3719 7300 M NR
1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000



From: [personal informatio] Seven.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2023 12:32 PM
To: media@tmr.qld.gov.au; Charlton Hart <Charlton.Hart@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: News story

From: [personal in]
Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2023 12:31 PM
To: media@tmr.qld.gov.au; charlton.hart@minisiterial.qld.gov.au
Subject: News story

Good afternoon,

I'm doing a story on the RTI release relating to:
1.Spreadsheet/table of DA holders (taxi and booked hire drivers) who have been charged with a criminal offence since 1 January 2022. 2.Document/s (specifically documents to summarise the actual criminal charges and an overview of DA holders who have been charged) from 1 January 2022 relating to South East Queensland (Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast) taxi drivers or ride sharing services such as Uber, who have been charged with criminal offences. Date range for request: 1 January 2022 to 4 May 2023. (attached)

I have the following clarifying questions for an upcoming news story:

1. How many DA holders across QLD were charged with a criminal offence in 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years respectively?
2. Of the drivers charged with offences against the person, how many had their DA licence revoked? Please provide a breakdown as to whether it was temporary or permanent.
3. Are drivers charged with serious criminal charges such as offences against the person allowed to keep operating ahead of a verdict/decision? If so, why?


I also request an interview with the Minister or a Department spokesperson for the story. Please advise whether either will be made available.

My deadline is COB tomorrow.

Kind regards,

[personal infor]
Seven Network FOI Editor

[personal informa]

 Seven Network (Operations) Limited
560 Sir Samuel Griffith Drive, Mount Coot-Tha QLD 4066 Australia
GPO Box 604, Brisbane QLD 4001 Australia

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From: Danielle A Wills <Danielle.A.Wills@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 9:37:16 AM
To: [personal informati]@Seven.com.au>
Cc: [personal informati]@seven.com.au>

Subject: RE: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

Good morning person

I refer to the decision dated 5 July 2023.

Following the receipt of your cheque in the amount of \$442.55 in payment of the processing charges, please find attached a copy of the released documents.

Please note that the processing of a Right to Information application by the department is not a taxable supply and the department is not required to issue tax invoices.

Should you wish to discuss your application in any way, please contact me on 07 3066 0728.

Kind regards
Danielle

Danielle Wills
Senior Advisor (RTI and Privacy) | RTI, Privacy and Complaints Management
Governance Branch | Corporate Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

P: 07 3066 0728
Floor 8 | 61 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001
danielle.a.wills@tmr.qld.gov.au
www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From: personal informati@Seven.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 July 2023 2:17 PM
To: Danielle A Wills <Danielle.A.Wills@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Cc: personal informat@seven.com.au>
Subject: Re: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

That's fine. Thanks Danielle

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From: Danielle A Wills <Danielle.A.Wills@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 2:14:56 PM
To: personal informati@Seven.com.au>
Cc: personal informa@seven.com.au>
Subject: RE: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

No worries at all person

Is 930am too late?

Danielle Wills

Senior Advisor (RTI and Privacy) | RTI, Privacy and Complaints Management
Governance Branch | Corporate Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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danielle.a.wills@tmr.qld.gov.au
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From: personal informati@Seven.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 July 2023 2:13 PM
To: Danielle A Wills <Danielle.A.Wills@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Cc: personal informat@seven.com.au>
Subject: Re: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

First thing tomorrow morning would work better if that's ok please Danielle?
Thank you!

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From: Danielle A Wills <Danielle.A.Wills@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 1:48:39 PM
To: personal informati@Seven.com.au>
Cc: personal informat seven.com.au>
Subject: RE: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

Hi persona

The cheque for the payment of the processing charges was received today. Will I email a copy of the released documents today?

Kind regards
Danielle

Danielle Wills
Senior Advisor (RTI and Privacy) | RTI, Privacy and Complaints Management
Governance Branch | Corporate Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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danielle.a.wills@tmr.qld.gov.au
www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From: personal informati@Seven.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 July 2023 4:33 PM
To: Danielle A Wills <Danielle.A.Wills@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Cc: personal informat@seven.com.au>
Subject: Re: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

Argh. Thanks Danielle. Hopefully tomorrow 🙏

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From: Danielle A Wills <Danielle.A.Wills@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 4:28:25 PM

To: personal informat@Seven.com.au>

Subject: RE: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

Hi person

I'm ok. RTI keeping us busy. Hope you are well too.

No cheque as yet. I will email them as soon the payment is received.

Kind regards

Danielle

Danielle Wills

A/Principal Advisor (RTI and Privacy) | RTI, Privacy and Complaints Management

Governance Branch | Corporate Division

Department of Transport and Main Roads

P: 07 3066 0728

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GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001

danielle.a.wills@tmr.qld.gov.au

www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From: personal informati@Seven.com.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 18 July 2023 1:36 PM

To: Danielle A Wills <Danielle.A.Wills@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Subject: RE: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

Hi Danielle,

I hope you're well.

Have you got this one yet?

The cheque has hopefully reached you by now.

If so, are you able to please email me the docs?

Thank you.

Kind regards,

personal info

Seven Network FOI Editor

personal informati



Seven Network (Operations) Limited

560 Sir Samuel Griffith Drive, Mount Coot-Tha QLD 4066 Australia

GPO Box 604, Brisbane QLD 4001 Australia

From: Danielle A Wills <Danielle.A.Wills@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 3:45 PM

To: personal informati@Seven.com.au>

Subject: RE: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

Hi personal i

Please find attached the decision.

Please note that I will be leave from tomorrow and back on Monday 10 July 2023.

Kind regards
Danielle

Danielle Wills
A/Principal Advisor (RTI and Privacy) | RTI, Privacy and Complaints Management
Governance Branch | Corporate Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

P: 07 3066 0728
Floor 8 | 61 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001
danielle.a.wills@tmr.qld.gov.au
www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From: Danielle A Wills
Sent: Monday, 12 June 2023 2:06 PM
To: personal informatio Seven.com.au>
Subject: Re: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

Hi perso

After examining the documents relevant to your application, I have decided that it is necessary for me to consult under section 37 of the RTI Act with a third party who I believe may have concerns about the release of information to you.

Section 18(2)(d) of the RTI Act (processing period) sets out that if consultation of this type is required, the department is allowed an additional 10 business days to process the application. As a result of this consultation, the due date for notifying you of my decision is 7 July 2023.

Please also note that, under section 37 of the RTI Act, if an objection to release is raised, I must defer giving you access to the documents in issue until after the third party's appeal rights under the RTI Act have been exhausted.

If you have any further questions, you may contact me on 07 3066 0728.

Kind regards
Danielle

Danielle Wills
Senior Advisor (RTI and Privacy) | RTI, Privacy and Complaints Management
Governance Branch | Corporate Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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From: Danielle A Wills
Sent: Thursday, 8 June 2023 4:28 PM
To: personal informati@Seven.com.au>
Subject: CM: RE: Re: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

Thank you person

No worries at all.

Talk soon.

Kind regards
Danielle

Danielle Wills
Senior Advisor (RTI and Privacy) | RTI, Privacy and Complaints Management
Governance Branch | Corporate Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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danielle.a.wills@tmr.qld.gov.au
www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From: personal informati@Seven.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 June 2023 1:33 PM
To: Danielle A Wills <Danielle.A.Wills@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Re: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

Hi Danielle,
Sorry been flat-out. Hopefully Helen has a great break.
Yes, that's fine 😊

personal infort

FOI Editor, Seven Network

personal informatio



Seven Network (Operations) Limited
560 Sir Samuel Griffith Drive, Mount Coot-Tha QLD 4066 Australia
GPO Box 604, Brisbane QLD 4001 Australia

From: Danielle A Wills <Danielle.A.Wills@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 1:28 PM
To: personal informati@Seven.com.au>
Subject: RE: Re: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

Hi persona

Further to Helen's email below, I confirm that I will be finalising your application.

I am starting to review the documents - similar to your previous application (our reference of RTI-2170), do you agree to removing the following as 'Not Relevant'?

- Name and date of birth;
- Licence/customer reference number details;
- Specific details about the charge;
- Day of the month the arrest occurred;
- Day of the month for the court hearing;
- Courthouse name of a smaller town;
- QPS reference numbers.

If you have any further questions, please contact me on 3066 0728.

Kind regards
Danielle

Danielle Wills
Senior Advisor (RTI and Privacy) | RTI, Privacy and Complaints Management
Governance Branch | Corporate Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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Floor 8 | 61 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001
danielle.a.wills@tmr.qld.gov.au
www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From: Helen Z Adcock
Sent: Wednesday, 7 June 2023 10:25 AM
To: personal_informatio[@Seven.com.au](mailto:personal_informatio@Seven.com.au)>
Subject: RE: Re: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

Hi persona

Hope you are well.

I am going on leave for 5 weeks commencing tomorrow and reallocating your application to Danielle to continue to process. However I thought I would contact you first to enquire whether there was any urgency with you receiving a decision and if not, would you consider putting the application on hold (by granting me an extension) until I return from leave.

Currently the team is experiencing a high workload and the above would alleviate that somewhat however this suggestion is only if it suited you.

Thanks person look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Helen Adcock

(07) 3066 0709

Floor 8 | 61 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000

GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001

helen.z.adcock@tmr.qld.gov.au

www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From: personal.information@Seven.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 24 May 2023 8:42 AM

To: Helen Z Adcock <Helen.Z.Adcock@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Subject: CM: Re: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

That's fine. Thanks Helen.

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From: Helen Z Adcock <Helen.Z.Adcock@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 8:38:15 AM

To: personal.information@Seven.com.au>

Subject: RTI-3371 - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

Dear personal.information@Seven.com.au

I refer to your below email agreeing to the estimated charges.

As advised in my Charges Estimate Notice, the period of time between when the notice is given and the day you return the notice is not included in the timeframe of business days to process your application. Accordingly, the new due date for a decision on your application is 23 June 2023.

Could you please confirm that you consent to the removal of the information referenced in my previous email.

Thanks and regards

Helen Adcock

Principal Advisor (RTI & Privacy) | RTI, Privacy and Complaints Management

Governance Branch | Corporate Division

Department of Transport and Main Roads

(07) 3066 0709

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GPO Box 1549 | Brisbane Qld 4001

helen.z.adcock@tmr.qld.gov.au

www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From personal informatio@Seven.com.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 23 May 2023 10:51 AM

To: Helen Z Adcock <Helen.Z.Adcock@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Subject: CM: RE: RTI-3371 - Charges Estimate Notice - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

Hi Helen,
Thanks for the CEN. I confirm I wish to proceed.
Kind regards,

personal info

FOI Editor, Seven Network

personal informatio



Seven Network (Operations) Limited
560 Sir Samuel Griffith Drive, Mount Coot-Tha QLD 4066 Australia
GPO Box 604, Brisbane QLD 4001 Australia

From: Helen Z Adcock <Helen.Z.Adcock@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 10:17 AM

To: personal informati@Seven.com.au>

Subject: RTI-3371 - Charges Estimate Notice - Right to Information Access Application submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads

Dear person

Attached is a Charges Estimate Notice for the above access application relating to Taxi/ride booking drivers charged with criminal offences.

Noting you agreed to the below information being removed as non relevant for the previous access application (RTI-2170), it would be appreciated if you could advise as to whether you would agree for the same type of information to be removed from the responsive documents for the current application.:

- Name and date of birth
- Licence/customer reference number details
- Specific details about the charge
- Day of the month the arrest occurred
- Day of the month for the court hearing
- Courthouse name of a smaller town; and
- QPS reference numbers.

Thanks persona

Kind regards

Helen Adcock

Principal Advisor (RTI & Privacy) | RTI, Privacy and Complaints Management
Governance Branch | Corporate Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Douglas C Estwick <Douglas.Estwick@translink.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 August 2023 5:10 PM
To: Charlton Hart; Lesley Major
Cc: Translink Media; @Minister Bailey Media
Subject: For approval | Media response | Channel 7 | Criminal charges against taxi and booked hire drivers

Hi team,

As discussed, below is our proposed response to the questions from personal info regarding community safety.

Please let me know if you have any concerns or if I can assist further at this stage.

Kind regards,
Doug

ENQUIRY

Q: What assurances can you give the public that their safety is being taken seriously.

Q: Are drivers charged with serious criminal charges such as offences against the person allowed to keep operating ahead of a verdict/decision? If so, why?

MEDIA RESPONSE:

Please attribute to a Department of Transport and Main Roads spokesperson:

More than 38 million taxi and booked hire trips are undertaken annually, with the overwhelming majority taken safely and without incident.

About 20,800 taxi and booked hire licence holders work to transport passengers safely and the vast majority of drivers who were charged with a criminal offence did not commit the offence while driving a taxi or booked hire vehicle.

Safety is our number one priority and that is why there are regulations that taxi, limousine and rideshare operators need to follow when hiring a driver, and there are processes in place to ensure the safety of passengers:

- The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) conducts a criminal history check as part of the Booked Hire/Taxi Driver Authorisation, which a person must hold before they can drive for a taxi, limousine or rideshare operator.
- Queensland Police Service notifies TMR of any criminal charge against a taxi or booked hire driver and where there are grounds to do so, TMR suspends or cancels the person's Driver Authorisation as soon as possible.
- In cases where an operator notifies TMR of an incident, TMR immediately reports the incident to QPS.
- All taxis and rideshare vehicles that meet the relevant risk criteria must be fitted with approved security cameras for the safety of drivers and passengers.
- Approved security camera systems can be and have been used to prosecute offenders.

When we receive advice a driver is charged with serious criminal offences, we consider the allegations and the need to protect the public, particularly children and vulnerable community members.

We must also consider the impact the decision will have on the driver to ensure they are treated fairly. Each case is assessed individually, and, as protection of the public is our primary concern, in the vast majority of instances, a driver's authorisation will be withdrawn.

ENDS

Douglas Estwick
Senior Advisor - Media
Office of the Deputy Director-General | Translink Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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From: Hannah Whittle
Sent: Tuesday, 8 August 2023 1:34 PM
To: Charlton Hart
Cc: Lesley Major
Subject: Re: For approval | Media response | Channel 7 | Criminal charges against taxi and booked hire drivers

G2G

Sent from my iPhone

On 8 Aug 2023, at 1:33 pm, Charlton Hart <Charlton.Hart@ministerial.qld.gov.au> wrote:

ENQUIRY

Q: What assurances can you give the public that their safety is being taken seriously.

Q: Are drivers charged with serious criminal charges such as offences against the person allowed to keep operating ahead of a verdict/decision? If so, why?

MEDIA RESPONSE:

Please attribute to a Department of Transport and Main Roads spokesperson:

About 20,800 taxi and booked hire licence holders work to transport passengers safely across the State.

Safety is our number one priority and that is why there are strict regulations in place including criminal history checks before a driver authorisation is issued.

There are clear procedures within the department for drivers who are charged with a criminal offence.

A driver's authorisation will be automatically suspended if they are charged with a serious criminal offence, until the matter is dealt with via the relevant court process.

Once convicted of a serious criminal offense, the driver's authorisation is cancelled indefinitely.

ENDS

Background:

1. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) conducts a criminal history check as part of the Booked Hire/Taxi Driver Authorisation, which a

person must hold before they can drive for a taxi, limousine or rideshare operator.

1. Queensland Police Service notifies TMR of any criminal charge against a taxi or booked hire driver and where there are grounds to do so, TMR suspends or cancels the person's Driver Authorisation as soon as possible.
2. In cases where an operator notifies TMR of an incident, TMR immediately reports the incident to QPS.
3. All taxis and rideshare vehicles that meet the relevant risk criteria must be fitted with approved security cameras for the safety of drivers and passengers.



Charlton Hart

Media Advisor

Office of the Hon. Mark Bailey MP

Minister for Transport and Main Roads
& Minister for Digital Services

P (07) 3719 7300 M NR

1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000



From: Douglas C Estwick <Douglas.Estwick@translink.com.au>

Sent: Friday, August 4, 2023 5:10 PM

To: Charlton Hart <Charlton.Hart@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Lesley Major <Lesley.Major@ministerial.qld.gov.au>

Cc: Translink Media <Translink.Media@translink.com.au>; @Minister Bailey Media <MinisterBaileyMedia@min.internal>

Subject: For approval | Media response | Channel 7 | Criminal charges against taxi and booked hire drivers

Hi team,

As discussed, below is our proposed response to the questions from personal regarding community safety.

Please let me know if you have any concerns or if I can assist further at this stage.

Kind regards,

Doug

Douglas Estwick

Senior Advisor - Media

Office of the Deputy Director-General | Translink Division

Department of Transport and Main Roads

P: 07 3338 4040 | NR

Floor 1 | 61 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000

GPO Box 50 | Brisbane Qld 4001

douglas.estwick@translink.com.au

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From: Charlton Hart
Sent: Tuesday, 8 August 2023 1:34 PM
To: Hannah Whittle
Cc: Lesley Major
Subject: RE: For approval | Media response | Channel 7 | Criminal charges against taxi and booked hire drivers

ENQUIRY

Q: What assurances can you give the public that their safety is being taken seriously.

Q: Are drivers charged with serious criminal charges such as offences against the person allowed to keep operating ahead of a verdict/decision? If so, why?

MEDIA RESPONSE:

Please attribute to a Department of Transport and Main Roads spokesperson:

About 20,800 taxi and booked hire licence holders work to transport passengers safely across the State.

Safety is our number one priority and that is why there are strict regulations in place including criminal history checks before a driver authorisation is issued.

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A driver's authorisation will be automatically suspended if they are charged with a serious criminal offence, until the matter is dealt with via the relevant court process.

Once convicted of a serious criminal offense, the driver's authorisation is cancelled indefinitely.

ENDS

Background:

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- Queensland Police Service notifies TMR of any criminal charge against a taxi or booked hire driver and where there are grounds to do so, TMR suspends or cancels the person's Driver Authorisation as soon as possible.
- In cases where an operator notifies TMR of an incident, TMR immediately reports the incident to QPS.
- All taxis and rideshare vehicles that meet the relevant risk criteria must be fitted with approved security cameras for the safety of drivers and passengers.



Charlton Hart
Media Advisor
Office of the Hon. Mark Bailey MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
& Minister for Digital Services
P (07) 3719 7300 M [redacted] NR
1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000



From: Douglas C Estwick <Douglas.Estwick@translink.com.au>
Sent: Friday, August 4, 2023 5:10 PM
To: Charlton Hart <Charlton.Hart@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Lesley Major <Lesley.Major@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Translink Media <Translink.Media@translink.com.au>; @Minister Bailey Media <MinisterBaileyMedia@min.internal>
Subject: For approval | Media response | Channel 7 | Criminal charges against taxi and booked hire drivers

Hi team,

As discussed, below is our proposed response to the questions from [redacted] regarding community safety.

Please let me know if you have any concerns or if I can assist further at this stage.

Kind regards,
Doug

Douglas Estwick
Senior Advisor - Media
Office of the Deputy Director-General | Translink Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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Pages 27 through 43 redacted for the following reasons:

Schedule 2 Part 2 - RTI processing document



Nic >

Tue, 8 Aug at 4:40 pm

Just saw your email to personal information Nic. You're a superstar, thanks.

She is painful

She is horrible!

Irrelevant



iMessage



Irrelevant