



*caring about you & your environment*

File No. T/11/2/1

22 November 2002

Mr J Heisler  
Group General Manager  
Change Management and Human Resources  
Tranz Rail  
Private Bag 92138  
AUCKLAND MAIL CENTRE

Dear Mr Heisler

### **Rail Safety - Wellington**

I talked to Michael Thomas about getting access to information relating to the last three safety audits undertaken on Tranz Metro Wellington. I had previously sought a copy of these audits **from** the LTSA and they had refused but pointed me to Michael Thomas (a copy of their letter is attached).

Michael suggested that I set down a series of questions and that they be addressed directly to you. We also discussed having a Tranz Rail representative coming to the Passenger Transport Committee to present the answers and if necessary responding to any supplementary questions that the Committee members might wish to raise.

Attached are questions I believe my Committee would like to see answered. Could you please indicate who from Tranz Rail Limited would be prepared to attend our next Committee meeting (date to be confirmed, but likely to be in March 2003) to answer any other questions that the Committee members might raise.

Yours sincerely

DAVE WATSON  
Divisional Manager, Transport

*Encl*

## Questions for Tranz Rail

1. We received from LTSA a table of national rail statistics for the year 1993/04 to 2001/02 showing rail fatalities and injury statistics. Could you please provide a breakdown of this for the Wellington Tranz Metro region?
2. What are SPADS?
3. Why do they occur?
4. They would appear to be a dangerous practice. What has Tranz Rail done to avoid them?
5. Why do heat buckles occur?
6. Heat buckles do not appear to have been a problem in earlier years, so what has changed?
7. Why is the metal on the masts holding up the overhead wires not painted to prevent corrosion?
8. How many broken rails were detected in the Wellington region in the past 12 months?
9. What causes broken rails?
10. How can they be avoided?
11. What is the safety training regime for staff in this region?
12. What is the frequency of testing safety knowledge of this staff?
13. What proportion fail these retests?