



Will be considered for release in full

## MIN-4245 Road closures following a serious crash

28 June 2023

Information has been requested to explain why a road closure caused by a serious crash can last for up to 4 to 8 hours.

---

### Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

- Serious crashes which require the involvement of the Serious Crash Unit (SCU) from NZ Police can require the scene of the crash to be closed for extended periods of time. This is due to the investigation, scene examination, measurements, and calculations that SCU officers must undertake immediately post-crash.
- SCU officer are stationed at locations around the country and are not in all cities or regional areas. As an example, in Otago and Southland, there are three SCU officers available based in Invercargill, Alexandra and Dunedin. These three officers are rostered on a 24/7 basis but there is only ever one SCU officer on duty at night or weekends. This means that, when a crash occurs in Central Otago and the SCU officer on-duty is based in Invercargill or Dunedin, the time for the officer to arrive at the scene of the crash, and start the investigation, could be over two hours. This is likely the key factor in how long a site remains closed following a crash, and the availability of SCU officers across the country is similar to the example above.
- Isolation of a crash also impacts on response time from emergency service
- The other key factor in how long a crash investigation takes relates to the seriousness of the crash, the number of vehicles involved and the level of fatality/serious injury.