



2 May 2013

Sam Boyer

sam.boyer@dompost.co.nz

Dear Sam

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 4 April 2013 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, and your subsequent email correspondence with Andy Knackstedt, Media Manager, clarifying that request. You requested the number of exemptions granted in New Zealand for the wearing of bicycle helmets, motorcycle helmets, and the use of safety belts and child restraints. You also asked if the reason for the exemption could be supplied and if the information could be sorted by region.

Please find attached four tables detailing all exemptions granted by the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) for bicycle and motorcycle helmets. Unfortunately we are unable to supply the information by region, as we do not report at this level of detail. Exemptions for bicycle and motorcycle helmets are recorded as being medical, religious or non-medical reasons.

There have been no motorcycle helmet exemptions granted for non-medical or religious reasons. Please note that persons who are adherent of the Sikh religion are automatically exempt from wearing a motorcycle helmet as long as they do not exceed 50kmph and can provide proof to an enforcement officer that they are a Sikh. This is set out in Clause 7.12 of the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004. Therefore this religion is not included in NZTA statistics.

You will notice that the data for medical bicycle helmet exemptions has been supplied from 1994, and yet data for non-medical and religious bicycle helmet exemptions has only been supplied from 2009. This is because prior to 2009 this information was manually recorded and is no longer available.

Exemptions regarding safety belts and child restraints are not considered by the NZTA. If a safety belt or child restraint exemption is required for medical reasons, a medical certificate must be carried at all times while driving. Persons who work in a certain industry, such as mail delivery are automatically exempt from the requirement to wear a safety belt. These exemptions are covered by Clause 7.11 of the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004. Both clauses referred to above can be found online through: www.legislation.govt.nz/.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the NZTA, please contact Mr Knackstedt, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (04) 894 6285.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sue Hardiman', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sue Hardiman

Manager, Customer Access

For Chief Executive