

24 July 2014

Corrie Taylor  
Journalist  
Sun Media Ltd  
[corrie@thesun.co.nz](mailto:corrie@thesun.co.nz)

Dear Corrie

**Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 3 July 2014 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information on crashes that occurred on state highways in the Bay of Plenty in 2013. Our responses to each of your questions are provided below.

**1. How many motor vehicle crashes occurred during 2013 on state highways in the Bay of Plenty?**

Please refer to Table 1 in Attachment 1.

**2. I would like to know the top three most expensive crashes during 2013 (social cost and the cost of repairing the damage to the road), when each of these occurred, what vehicles were involved, the crash factors, and any injuries sustained.**

Please refer to Tables 2 and 3 in Attachment 1.

**3. I would like to know how much money each of the top three incidents cost, what the costs were made up of and who pays for this. Can I please have the social cost and the cost of repairing the damage to the road and roadside separately?**

Information on the social costs of crashes is available on the Ministry of Transport's website at: [www.transport.govt.nz/research/roadcrashstatistics](http://www.transport.govt.nz/research/roadcrashstatistics)

The social cost includes a number of different elements:

- loss of life and life quality
- loss of output due to temporary incapacitation
- medical costs
- legal costs
- property damage costs

Please refer to the report titled *The Social Cost of Road Crashes and Injuries 2013 update* on the Ministry's website. Table 8 on page 9 of that report shows the figure of \$4,709,000 referred to in our responses to questions 2 and 4. That figure is based on the average cost of fatal crashes in the Bay of Plenty region over the three-year period ending 2012. It shows the cost per crash rather than the cost

per fatality. The crash severity, and therefore the social cost, is based on the most severe injury in each crash.

Because the social costs are based on regional averages, they are useful for the evaluation of regional programmes but do not differentiate between crashes with different numbers of casualties.

The costs to the Transport Agency cover work such as traffic management, road closure and repair work.

**4. If it is available I would like to know the same information asked in question 3 in relation to the recent fatal crash on the Kaimai Ranges.**

To confirm, the crash you are referring to occurred on 29 May 2014. The social cost of the crash was \$4,709,000. The cost to the Transport Agency was \$5,314.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Andy Knackstedt, National Media Manager, by email to [andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz) or by phone on (04) 894 6285.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Brash', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Dave Brash**  
Group Manager Planning and Investment  
For Chief Executive

**Table 1**

The table below shows the number of crash on state highways in the Bay of Plenty in 2013. The figures show the number of crashes, not the number of injuries sustained. We categorise types of crashes by the most serious injury sustained in each crash.

Local body district	No. of fatal crashes	No. of serious crashes	No. of minor crashes	No. of non-injury crashes	Total
Kawerau	0	1	0	0	1
Opotiki	1	6	13	13	33
Rotorua	3	16	44	119	182
Taupo	0	0	2	0	2
Tauranga City	1	8	48	155	212
Western Bay of Plenty	4	17	46	119	186
Whakatane	0	8	26	30	64
<b>Bay of Plenty total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>680</b>

**Table 2**

We have provided you with information on seven crashes rather than three as each of the seven crashes had the same social cost. The information is shown in the two tables below. I have given each crash a reference number to allow you to match the information in the two tables.

Crash ref no.	Local body district	Date of crash	Location of crash	Cost to the NZTA	Social cost (\$000)	Vehicles involved			
						Car	SUV	Truck	Van
1	Western Bay of Plenty	17/2/13	SH2	\$3,495	4,709	2			
2	Western Bay of Plenty	3/4/13	SH29	\$0 <sup>1</sup>	4,709		1		
3	Western Bay of Plenty	21/6/13	SH29	\$2,162	4,709	1		1	
4	Western Bay of Plenty	27/7/13	SH29	\$4,347	4,709	4			1
5	Opotiki	29/7/13	SH2	\$1,000	4,709		1		
6	Tauranga City	12/8/13	SH29	\$0 <sup>2</sup>	4,709	2			1
7	Rotorua	17/8/13	SH30	\$11,865	4,709		1	1	

<sup>1</sup> This was a 'hit and run' crash which the Transport Agency did not attend

<sup>2</sup> The liable driver has recently been ordered by the court to pay full reparation to the Transport Agency

**Table 3**

Crash ref no.	Description and causes of events	Number of injuries		
		Fatal injuries	Serious injuries	Minor injuries
1	Driver of car 1 lost control on curve and hit car 2 head-on. Car 1 hit guardrail. Car 1 had fault (puncture or blowout).	1	1	3
2	SUV hit pedestrian crossing road. Pedestrian intoxicated and crossed road heedless of traffic.	1	0	0
3	Truck hit right-turning car. Driver of car failed to give way at stop sign. Car driver's attention diverted by sun/lights; didn't look when required to give way.	1	0	0
4	Driver of car 1 lost control on curve and hit car 2 head-on. Car 1 hit ditch. Car 2 went over bank. Cars 3 and 4 hit debris. Driver of car 1 over-reacted while returning to sealed road from unsealed shoulder.	1	0	2
5	Driver of SUV lost control turning left; hit bank of cliff. Lost control due to frost or ice on road.	1	1	2
6	Driver of car 1 lost control on straight road and hit van head-on. Van hit bridge, water/river.	1	1	3
7	Driver of truck lost control on curve and hit SUV head-on. Truck hit cliff bank. Driver of truck lost control due to frost or ice on road and heavy rain.	1	0	1