

13 June 2019

Meriana Johnsen  
Radio New Zealand  
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REF: OIA-5062

Dear Meriana

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

Thank you for your email of 1 May 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *How many kilometres of New Zealand highway has median barriers?*
2. *How many kilometres of New Zealand highway has safety barriers?*
3. *How many kilometres of roadside barriers in total are there across New Zealand highways?*
4. *How many kilometres of median barrier are there across New Zealand broken down by highway, and broken down by region?*
5. *How many kilometres of roadside barriers are there across New Zealand, broken down by region and by highway?*
6. *How many kilometres of roadside barrier have been installed in the last 10 years, broken down by each year?*
7. *How many kilometres of median barrier has been installed in the last 10 years, broken down by each year?*
8. *How many kilometres of median barrier are planned to be installed in the next 5 years, and where?*
9. *How many kilometres of roadside barrier are planned to be installed in the next 5 years, and where?*
10. *What are the star ratings of all New Zealand highways, broken down by region?*

Please note, as the Transport Agency is responsible for the management of state highways, the information provided relates to state highways only. If you would like information for local roads you will need to contact the relevant local councils.

1. *How many kilometres of New Zealand highway has median barriers?*
2. *How many kilometres of New Zealand highway has safety barriers?*
3. *How many kilometres of roadside barriers in total are there across New Zealand highways?*

As there are sections of state highway that have multiple barriers along their length, meaning the cumulative length of barriers does not reflect the total length of state highway with barriers, I am unable to provide the total kilometres of state highway with barriers. Therefore, I am refusing parts 1 to 3 of your request under section 18 (g) of the Act, as the information is not held.

However, I can advise the total cumulative length of each type of barrier across the state highway network. As at 5 June 2019 there are:

- 498.9 kilometres of median barriers
- 1,752.2 kilometres of roadside barriers
- 2,251.1 kilometres of safety barriers in total.

4. *How many kilometres of median barrier are there across New Zealand broken down by highway, and broken down by region?*
5. *How many kilometres of roadside barriers are there across New Zealand, broken down by region and by highway?*
6. *How many kilometres of roadside barrier have been installed in the last 10 years, broken down by each year?*
7. *How many kilometres of median barrier has been installed in the last 10 years, broken down by each year?*

From 1 October 2017 to 1 May 2019, 47.5km of median barriers and 244.7 of edge (roadside) barriers had either been installed or were under construction through the Safe Network Programme. This does not include barriers on newly constructed roads, which are built to a higher safety standard with barriers included as a matter of design.

Please find responses to questions 4 to 7 for the years 2009 to 2017 in the attached spreadsheet. Please note, the 'year installed' represents the year when each barrier was either first installed or when it has been replaced (i.e. through maintenance). Therefore, the figures do not necessarily represent the length of new barriers installed each year.

8. *How many kilometres of median barrier are planned to be installed in the next 5 years, and where?*
9. *How many kilometres of roadside barrier are planned to be installed in the next 5 years, and where?*

The government is spending \$1.4 billion over three years to make our most dangerous state highways and local roads safer. The work is being carried out under the Safe Network Programme, which aims to prevent 160 deaths and serious injuries each year by adding safety improvements to 3300km of high-risk roads.

It will prioritise the roads that pose the highest risks for motorists and add safety improvements that are proven to be the most effective in saving lives.

Since October 2017, 10 of New Zealand's rural highways have been made safer under the Safe Network Programme by adding safety barriers, wide centrelines, rumble strips, better signs and level crossing upgrade. A further 13 projects are in construction and a further 22 are in the planning stages.

When these projects have been completed, 198 kilometres of median barriers and 322 kilometres of road side barriers will have been installed through the Safe Network Programme over the next 3 years.

These numbers do not include barriers that have been or will be installed on new state highways. The Safe Network Programme focuses on making existing state highways safer, whereas new roads are constructed to a higher safer rating where barriers are included as a matter of design.

Further information about this work is available on: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/our-vision-of-a-safe-road-system/safe-network-programme/projects/>

*10. What are the star ratings of all New Zealand highways, broken down by region?*

Information about KiwiRAP star ratings is available at [http://www.kiwirap.org.nz/results\\_star.html](http://www.kiwirap.org.nz/results_star.html). I am therefore refusing this question under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse your request. You can find the contact details for the Ombudsman at [www.ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz).

If you would like to discuss this response further, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Manager, Media, on 04 894 6285, or by email to [Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leisa Coley', with a small dot at the end.

**Leisa Coley**  
Manager, Ministerial Services