

15 February 2019

REF: OIA-4599

Kirsty Lawrence
Stuff
kirsty.lawrence@stuff.co.nz

Dear Kirsty,

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email to NZ Police on 15 January 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

On 17 January 2019 the NZ Police transferred your request to the NZ Transport Agency for response to the following:

“Could I grab some information around how many police crashes are caused by police doing U-turns in the past two years for 2018, 2017 and 2019 to date?

Could I have this broken down into regions and numbers.

Could I also have numbers for the same time period as to how many police have been in crashes overall.”

I am refusing the first and second parts of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Crashes may have multiple factors recorded as having influenced the crash, because other factors such as fatigue or speed may also have influenced the crash.

I have found records of 11 crashes involving NZ Police vehicles performing a U-turn. A table detailing these crashes by region and calendar year is provided below.

Crashes involving NZ Police vehicle U-turn		
Year	Region	Crashes
2017	Canterbury	1
2017	Manawatu/Whanganui	1
2017	Southland	1
2018	Auckland	3
2018	Canterbury	1
2018	Otago	1
2018	Waikato	1
2018	Wellington	2

The table below details NZ Police registered vehicles involved in crashes by calendar year. Note that this is a count of vehicles, not NZ Police staff.

NZ Police registered vehicles in crashes			
	2017	2018	2019
NZ Police registered vehicles	84	254	0

It is important to note the following about this data:

Crash data

- Crash data is from the NZ Transport Agency's road traffic crash database known as the Crash Analysis System (CAS).
- CAS data includes crashes that are fatal and non-fatal.
- Data is limited to those crashes which are reported to the NZ Transport Agency by the NZ Police, and is current as of 29 January 2019.
- CAS data covers all New Zealand roadways or places where the public have legal access with a motor vehicle.
- There is a lag between the time of a crash to full and correct crash records within CAS. This is due to the time that passes before the crash is reported by NZ Police, and the processing of crash data by the Transport Agency.
- It is believed that non-fatal crashes are underreported, with the level of underreporting decreasing with the severity of the crash.
- Parked vehicles are not included as being involved in crashes. This means a crash into a parked NZ Police vehicle isn't counted, unless the vehicle crashing into it is a NZ Police vehicle.
- 'NZ Police vehicles' have been identified as vehicles that were registered to the NZ Police at the time of the crash.

Motor vehicle data

Data used to identify NZ Police vehicles comes from the Motor Vehicle Register (MVR) and is current as of 28 January 2019.

- Identification of NZ Police vehicles was based on whether the word POLICE was in the name of the registered person.
- Names with the words ASSOCIATION or INCORPORATED were excluded as these were identified as entities where NZ Police staff are members of groups like unions or social clubs in a personal capacity, rather than branches of the NZ Police organisation.
- Due to the registered person name field being free text, identification of NZ Police vehicles is subject to data entry and other errors.

Certain information has been withheld under section 18(e) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information because the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse parts of your request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the NZ Transport Agency, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Manager Media, 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 read 'T Mellor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tracy Mellor
Senior Manager, Research & Analytics