

29 April 2019

Andrew Macfarlane  
Breakfast Reporter  
1 News  
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REF: OIA-4903

Dear Andrew,

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

Thank you for your email to the NZ Transport Agency on 27 March 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Act 1982 (the Act):

- *The number of driver licenses granted annually over the last ten years.*
- *Ideally, if that figure could also be broken down into age categories – that would be great too.*
- *If it could be broken down across all learners, restricted, full licenses and vehicle classes – that would also be great.*
- *Is the NZTA aware of any increase/decrease/trend regarding driver licenses?*

The data you requested regarding driver licenses granted is provided in the attached spreadsheet:

- OIA-4903 – Driver Licences Past 10 years.xlsx

It is important to note (Provided to you in the attached spreadsheet for your convenience):

- A licence is interpreted as any single licence class and stage combination (eg. one person progressing through the following: 1L, 1R, 1F and 2L would as count as 4 licences)
- Data is limited to driver licences granted between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2018.
- For privacy reasons where the number of licences issued as reported would lead to less than 5 records being reported, these have been suppressed with a "X".
- This report does not include licences re-issued after a suspension/disqualification, only the original year the class & stage were granted.
- The totals in the report "By Year, Age, Stage & Class" do not include suppressed values.
- The totals in the "By Year and Age" report do include the suppressed values found in the "By Year, Age, Stage & Class" report sheet.
- In August 2011 the minimum age for a Learner Licence holder was raised from 15 to 16 years.

The Transport Agency is aware of driver licence trends. A sample of some studies is given below:

- The Ministry of Transport publishes data from the NZ Household Travel Survey, for example People aged 15 years over with a full drivers' licence this can be found at:<https://www.transport.govt.nz/mot-resources/transport-dashboard/1-household-travel/rd035-people-aged-15-years-and-over-with-a-full-drivers-license/>
- A review of the driver licensing system started by the Government in 2014 this can be found at <https://www.transport.govt.nz/land/driverlicensingreview/>

- Information on the effectiveness of driver licensing programmes funded by the Ministry of Social Development in 2014 and 2015 can be found at: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/driver-licensing/effectiveness-of-driver-licensing-programmes.html>

There is also a review of the Graduated Driver Licence System underway.

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

Yours sincerely,



**Galina Mitchelhill**

Senior Manager, Research & Analytics