

25 October 2019

Kiri Gillespie
Assistant News Director - Bay of Plenty Times and Rotorua Daily Post
kiri.gillespie@nzme.co.nz

REF: OIA-5942

Dear Kiri,

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email to the NZ Police on 9 October 2019, which has been transferred to the NZ Transport Agency on 11 October 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Can we please have a monthly breakdown of all serious injury crashes on State Highway 2 between Waihi and Tauranga for each year, over the past five years including this year to date? Please list the location of each crash, and the determined cause of the crash. If no cause has yet been determined, please note this also.*
- *can we please have a monthly breakdown of all fatal crashes on State Highway 2 between Waihi and Tauranga for each year, over the past five years including this year to date? Please list the location of each crash, and the determined cause of the crash. If no cause has yet been determined, please note this also.*
- *Can we please have the location of each crash (or nearest cross road) and the cause of that crash?*
- *Of the fatal crashes, can we please have a breakdown of those crash victims, such as their names and ages? If this is not possible, could we please have a basic description such as age and gender at least?*

For the first three parts of your request, apart from the crash causes, the data is provided to you in the attached document (OIA-5942.pdf).

I am refusing the parts of your request relating to crash causes by crash, and the fourth part of your request relating to names and ages of crash victims under section 9(2)(a) of the Act as the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

We have provided in the document a table of factors contributing to crashes for fatal crashes on State Highway 2 (SH2) between Waihi and Tauranga between 2014 and 2019, and a corresponding one for serious crashes.

We have also provided in the document a table of the genders and age groups of persons who were killed in a crash on SH2 between Waihi and Tauranga between 2014 and 2019.

It is important to note the following in relation to the information provided. This information is also provided to you in the attached document:

- This data is provided from the road traffic crash database; Crash Analysis System (CAS) version 1.3.3.
- The Transport Agency maintains the CAS which is updated once a Traffic Crash Report (TCR) is received from the NZ Police sometime after the crash.
- Data is limited to fatal and serious crashes for the years 2014 to 2019 as recorded in CAS to date - 14/10/2019.
- Data is limited to crashes on SH2 between Waihi (intersection with SH 25) and Tauranga (Wairoa river).
- A crash, to be recorded in CAS has to have occurred on a road. The CAS definition of a road is any street, motorway or beach, or a place to which the public have access with a motor vehicle, whether as of right or not e.g. a public car park.
- Due to the police reporting time frame and subsequent data processing there is a lag from the time of a crash to full and correct crash records within CAS.
- Due to the nature of non-fatal crashes it is believed that these are under-reported, with the level of under-reporting decreasing with the severity of the crash.
- The cause of a crash cannot necessarily be attributed to any one factor (e.g. fatigue) as a crash may have multiple factors.
- 2019 data is incomplete and is current from CAS as at 14/10/2019.
- Factors are counted once against a crash - i.e. two fatigued drivers count as one fatigue crash factor.
- Count is the number of crashes where that factor was a contributing factor to the crash. The Total is the sum of all the factors contributing to crashes.
- '% All crashes' represents the percentage of crashes in which the cause factor appears
- Because a crash may have multiple cause factors there will be more factors than crashes.

Certain information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

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 withhold this information. 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 Megan Heffield, Senior Media Manager, by email to Megan.Heffield@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Galina Mitchelhill
Senior Manager, Research & Analytics