

22 April 2020

Rachael Kelly
rachael.kelly@stuff.co.nz

REF: OIA-6569

Dear Rachael,

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email to NZ Police on 28 February 2020 which was transferred to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on 23 March 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. In the last five years, how many crashes has the serious crash team investigated in Southland?*
- 2. Of those that have been investigated, how many found the road surface to have played a part in the crash? And of those crashes, how many resulted in death or serious injury?*
- 3. Could you please list where and when those crashes were.*
- 4. How many crashes had occurred in areas where the NZTA had lowered the speed limit, or erected slippery when wet signs, because of the road surface?*

On the 2 April 2020 you clarified part 4 of your request to:

the whole of the network broken down by province.

I will answer your questions in turn below.

I am refusing part 1 of your request under section 18(e) of the Act because the information requested does not exist. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's Crash Analysis System (CAS) does not record whether or not a crash was investigated by the Police serious crash team.

However, we can supply a table of fatal and serious crashes in Southland by year for the last five years. This data is being provided to you in the attached spreadsheet:

- OIA-6569.xlsx

In response to part 2 of your request, a table of crashes where slippery road or road surface condition was a contributing factor by crash severity is also provided in the attached spreadsheet.

Please note that none of these crashes had slippery road or road surface condition as the only factor contributing to the crash. For comparison, a table of all factors contributing to 2015-2019 Southland crashes is included in the Factors sheet of the attached spreadsheet.

In response to part 3 of your request, a map of the Southland fatal and serious crashes where slippery road or road surface condition was a contributing factor is shown in the maps sheet of the attached spreadsheet, together with a list of when and where those crashes occurred.

I am refusing part 4 of your request under s18(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. I am aware Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Manager, Media contacted you on 21 April 2020 regarding this refinement. If you would like to refine the scope of your request, we will be happy to work with you in order to do so.

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

- This data is provided from the road traffic crash database; Crash Analysis System (CAS) version 1.3.4.
- Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency maintains the Crash Analysis System which is updated once a Traffic Crash Report (TCR) is received from NZ Police sometime after the crash.
- Data is limited to fatal and serious injury crashes for the years 2015 to 2019 as recorded in CAS to date - 24/03/2020.
- Data is limited to crashes in Southland Region.
- 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 (eg road surface) as a crash may have multiple factors.

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

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi please contact Andrew Knackstedt Senior Manager, Media, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on 04 894 6285.

Yours sincerely,



Galina Mitchelhill

Senior Manager, Research & Analytics