

21 August 2020

Joel MacManus
Reporter
Stuff Limited
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REF: OIA-6945

Dear Joel

Thank you for your email of 29 July 2020 requesting information regarding applications for an exemption from the requirement to wear a bicycle helmet as allowed for under clause 11.8(7) of the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004.

Your request has been considered under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response to each part of your request is set out below.

1. The number of people who have applied for cycle helmet exemptions each year since 2016.

The number of bicycle helmet exemptions applied for by year from 2016-2020 are outlined in the below table.

Year	Number of bicycle helmet exemptions applied for 2016-2020
2016	16*
2017	8*
2018	12
2019	11
2020	6

*Please note that the figures for 2016 and 2017 are indicative only. Due to an upgrade to our email and call recording system, we are unable to provide total received figures for 2016/17. However, in an attempt to provide reasonable assistance, we have provided the number of granted applications for these years.

2. The number of people who were successful in their application each year since 2016.

The number of bicycle helmet exemptions granted by year from 2016-2020 are outlined in the below table.

Year	Number of bicycle helmet exemption granted 2016-2020
2016	16
2017	8
2018	11
2019	11
2020	6

3. The number of people who were given religious exemptions to helmets each year since 2016.

Year	Number of bicycle helmet exemption granted on grounds of religion 2016-2020
2016	1
2017	3
2018	7
2019	6
2020	Nil

4. A list of the most common reasons for exemptions.

All 53 applications received during the specified period were made either on religious or medical grounds.

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

Yours sincerely



Sue Hardiman
Senior Manager – Vehicle & Driver Licensing