

25 November 2020

Kirsty Lawrence
kirsty.lawrence@stuff.co.nz

REF: OIA-7337

Dear Kirsty

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 10 November 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Hiya, could I please request for 2016 until 2020 to date how often cell phones have been cited as the reason for a crash police have attended? Could I also have this broken down into districts and the nature of the crash, EG serious, fatal etc.

The data broken down into districts has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. This section allows the withholding of information to protect the privacy of natural persons. The dataset is small and breaking it down to districts results in low values, which, if combined with other sources of information, could lead to the identification of individuals.

The rest of the crash data you requested is provided in the table below:

Cell phone as a contributing factor to crashes 2016-2020					
Year	fatal crashes	serious crashes	minor crashes	non-injury crashes	Total crashes
2016	5	13	67	168	253
2017	5	10	71	167	253
2018	1	13	72	224	310
2019	2	14	79	176	271
2020*	2	3	68	88	161
	15	53	357	823	1248

* 2020 data is incomplete and is current from CAS as at 24/11/2020

Please note the following in relation to the information provided:

- This data is provided from the road traffic crash database; Crash Analysis System (CAS) version 2.0.0

- Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency maintains the CAS which is updated once a Traffic Crash Report (TCR) is received from NZ Police sometime after the crash.
- Data is for crashes that have a cell phone contributing factor, within the period 2010 to 2019 as recorded in CAS to date - 24/11/2020.
- Data is limited to crashes where one or more drivers primarily or partially contributed to the crash.
- The cause of a crash cannot necessarily be attributed to any one factor (e.g. cell phone) as a crash may have multiple factors recorded as influencing it.
- 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.
- 2020 data is incomplete.

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 Waka Kotahi, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Media Manager, by email at andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Galina Mitchelhill
Senior Manager, Research & Analytics