

4 May 2023

██████████
██████████ ██████████
Stuff
██████████@stuff.co.nz

REF: OIA-12457

Dear ██████████

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 17 April 2023 to NZ Police requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Unsure if this is the best way to approach this but I am wanting to find out the number of road crashes on State Highway 79 in the last 2-3 years.

On 17 April 2023, your request was transferred to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency as the information requested is more closely connected to our functions.

The data you requested is as follows:

2020-23 crashes on State Highway 79					
Year	Fatal crashes	Serious injury crashes	Minor injury crashes	Non-injury crashes	Total crashes
2020	1	2	8	16	27
2021			8	20	28
2022*		2	4	12	18
2023*	2	1	1		4
Total	3	5	21	48	77

* 2022 and 2023 data is not yet complete but this is the current figures from the Crash Analysis System (CAS) as at 2/05/2023

It is important to note the following in relation to the information provided:

- This data is provided from the road traffic crash database; Crash Analysis System (CAS) version 2.3.1
- Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency maintains CAS which is updated once a Traffic Crash Report (TCR) is received from NZ Police sometime after the crash.
- Data is for all crashes for the years 2020 to 2023 as recorded in CAS to date - 2/05/2023.

- Data is limited to crashes on State Highway 79.
- A crash, to be recorded in CAS must 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.
- Fatal, Serious Injury and Minor injury crash report data is usually recorded in CAS within one working day of Waka Kotahi receiving it from NZ Police. Data relating to non-injury crashes may take up to 7 months before it appears in 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 increasing severity of the crash.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, NZ had a 4-level Alert system in place from 21 March 2020 until this changed to a Traffic Light system in December 2021. The amount of traffic on the roads during level 4 lockdowns was greatly reduced, which consequently reduced the number of road crashes. Road movements under the Orange and Red levels of the Traffic Light system would also be reduced due to the restrictions in place, so data from these periods will not align with previous trends.
- 2022 and 2023 data is incomplete in CAS but the figures provided is what is currently in CAS as at 2/05/2023

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Frances Adank, Media Manager by email to frances.adank@nzta.govt.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'H' and 'P' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Henry Pretorius
Senior Manager (Acting), Research and Analytics