

20 December 2021

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

REF: OIA-9170

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 6 December 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I would like to please request an update to the attached table to include figures for 2020.

So I would like figures for:

- *The number of deaths involving drugs*
- *The number of deaths involving alcohol (separated for those above and below the limit)*
- *The total number of deaths involving alcohol/drugs*

Can these please be for the year of 2020 as well as updating the previous figures for 2013-2019 where necessary.

The data you have requested is as follows:

| Road deaths involving drugs or alcohol | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Year | Deaths involving drugs | Deaths involving alcohol | | Total deaths involving alcohol and/or drugs |
| | | Above limit or refused | Below legal limit | |
| 2013 | 14 | 53 | 29 | 90 |
| 2014 | 18 | 48 | 41 | 99 |
| 2015 | 39 | 65 | 53 | 136 |
| 2016 | 62 | 67 | 70 | 158 |
| 2017 | 92 | 76 | 75 | 186 |
| 2018 | 98 | 80 | 43 | 175 |
| 2019 | 110 | 87 | 50 | 180 |
| 2020* | 97 | 79 | 39 | 164 |

* 2020 data is incomplete and is current from CAS as at 7/12/2021

Some deaths involved both drugs and alcohol and would therefore be counted in both the drugs and alcohol columns above.

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 2.2.0.
- 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 crashes for the years 2013 to 2020 as recorded in CAS to date - 7/12/2021.
- Data is limited to crashes involving drugs or alcohol.
- Drugs means cause 109 'Drugs proven' was a contributing factor to the crash.
- Alcohol above limit or test refused means cause 103 'Alcohol test above limit or test refused' was a factor contributing to the crash.
- Alcohol below legal limit means the breath or blood reading was non-zero but below the legal limit.
- 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.
- The cause of a crash cannot necessarily be attributed to any one factor (eg fatigue) as a crash may have multiple factors.
- Drug and alcohol factors for a fatal crash can be updated at a later date when Serious Crash Unit reports and Coroner's reports become available.
- Note that this is a table of road deaths involving a driver with alcohol or drugs. There are a few crashes where a drugged pedestrian or cyclist was killed but the driver had neither alcohol nor drugs in their system. These are not included in the table (one crash in each of 2014, 2016, and 2017 and two in 2020).
- Total deaths involving alcohol and drugs in a crash means the alcohol and drugs could be different drivers or the same driver.
- A death can appear in more than one column of the table.
- From 1 December 2014 the breath alcohol limit was lowered to 250 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath and the blood alcohol level was reduced to 50mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood. The previous limits were 400 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath and 80 mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood.
- 2020 data is incomplete.

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 Kerry Greig, Manager Data Services, by email to kerry.greig@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Galina Mitchelhill

Senior Manager, Research and Analytics