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23 November 2022

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-11318

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 13 October 2022 to the New Zealand Police requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Could I please have records of all the accidents on the northern motor for the winter period. Am most interested if possible, the locations, times, and road surface conditions eg. grit present or not, ice, wet etc. Any other disclosable details available that would help explain the causes of accident would be appreciated.

On 27 October 2022, your request was transferred to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency for response as we maintain crash information in the Crash Analysis System (CAS). Upon receiving confirmation that your request was received by Waka Kotahi, you further requested:

I would like to request all information regarding accidents on the Northern motorway between Dunedin and Waiafati over this winter period.

- *What sort of investigation or analysis has been conducted into these accidents by NZTA?*
- *What are the findings of these investigations, and are there any outcomes as a result?*

We are providing you with a summary of the crashes that are within the scope of your request, which includes a description of events, surface conditions, natural light, weather, casualty and injury counts, and time/day of crashes. I have detailed this information in the enclosed spreadsheet:

- Attachment 1: OIA-11318.xlsx

This information should be read in conjunction with the caveats found on the first tab of the spreadsheet.

Further details about the crashes, if combined with other available information, could be used to identify individuals involved in the crashes. I am therefore withholding some information related to this part of your request under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

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.

Waka Kotahi investigates all fatal crashes and some serious injury crashes that occur on the state highway network where we believe an investigation is required. Reports from these investigations generate specific crash related recommendations, which are considered and actioned where appropriate. Investigations commonly result in improvements being identified for the network, which are recoded in our deficiency database for consideration in future safety speed and infrastructure programmes, and may also result in changes to maintenance practices to improve the safe operation of the network.

The relevant Network Outcome Contract supplier also tracks trends in winter crashes through the safety reports they prepare as part of their network management function. This can lead to adjustments in maintenance activities and practices to manage emerging issues.

Because no fatal or serious injury crashes have occurred on State Highway 1 (SH1) between Waitati and Dunedin since 1 May 2022, Waka Kotahi have not conducted any investigations into the crashes that have occurred and are reported in the enclosed spreadsheet.

I am therefore refusing your request for information regarding investigations of crashes on SH1 between Waitati and Dunedin since 1 May 2022 carried out by Waka Kotahi under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by Waka Kotahi and there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold and refuse parts of 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 Ministerial Services by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Robyn Elston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robyn Elston

National Manager, System Design