

21 June 2024

s9(2)(a)

REF: OIA-15501

Dear s9(2)(a)

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 28 May 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I want to know how much money NZTA spent in the last financial year on New Zealand roads to improve safety.

Not maintenance, not new roads, but improving our current roads to make them safer?

Then also how many lives did these improvements save year?

We can confirm that a total of \$780m was spent by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) in 2022/23 via the Road to Zero activity class. This includes investment in safety infrastructure, road safety campaigns, road policing, and other supporting activities. Table 1 below shows the breakdown of the total cost.

Table 1

Categories	Cost
Policing	\$415m
Infrastructure	\$312m
Road safety promotion	\$43m
Other	\$10m
Total	\$780m

For context, the Road to Zero activity class for the 2021-24 period is defined in the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2021 (GPS 2021) as providing investment targeted towards the interventions that are key to achieving the reduction in deaths and serious injuries, sought through the Road to Zero strategy 2020–30 focussing on safety infrastructure, road policing, automated enforcement, road safety promotion and system management activities.

In regard to your second query, lives saved is calculated on estimated death and serious injuries (DSI) saved from the investment. The predicted savings are based on historic research, for example, as per the Standard Safety Intervention Toolkit - <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/standard-safety-intervention-toolkit/standard-safety-intervention-toolkit.pdf> , - to properly evaluate the impact of what has been delivered, it is standard process to wait until at least 3 to 5 years of post-implementation data has been accumulated. Therefore, we cannot specifically say how many lives have been saved from last year's investment.

We can, however, say that we have seen very good results on areas where we have been able to evaluate safety improvements to existing roads. If you are interested, you can find these case studies that is published on our website:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/partners/road-safety-resources/safe-system-solutions/> -

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/partners/road-safety-resources/safe-system-case-studies/> -

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/partners/road-safety-resources/safety-interventions/>

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

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact us by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Howard Cattermole
Chief Financial Officer