

26 August 2024

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REF: OIA-16078

Dear ██████████

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 2 August 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

We are seeking information on loss of load specifically in relation to the Newmarket viaduct in Auckland as well as national figures.

Could you please provide data available in relation to the number of incidents, the objects involved in those incidents and any other relevant information?

On 7 August 2023 you provided the following clarification:

In relation to the Newmarket Viaduct specifically, we would like to understand whether there is any information on loss of load over the side of the viaduct onto the road below (e.g. Gillies Ave, Broadway, St Marks Road). We are aware of the 2004 incident where a truck went over the side of the viaduct [...] but are generally interested in data that gives detail of anything that is either insecure on a vehicle (e.g. load on a trailer or something like a hubcap or wheel) or intentionally released from a vehicle (e.g. rubbish) going over the side of the viaduct. [...]

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) undertook a search on its Crash Analysis System (CAS). There are no records of loads falling off vehicles in the vicinity of the Newmarket Viaduct for a five-year period between 2019 and 2023 inclusive. However, on the Auckland Southern Motorway (in the vicinity of the Newmarket Viaduct) two crashes occurred in the last five years. Although CAS data does not record debris going over the side of the viaduct, in one instance debris fell off a truck or van and struck a car following behind.

It is important to note that CAS only stores data regarding vehicle crashes and not on incidents involving loads falling off vehicles and going over the side of the viaduct (or elsewhere in New Zealand) without hitting another vehicle.

We can also advise that, throughout New Zealand, CAS data shows that there were 1019 crashes involving unsecured loads for the five-year period between 2019 and 2023 inclusive.

In the Auckland region alone (defined by the area covered by Auckland Council's boundary), there were 180 crashes involving unsecured loads. Unsecured loads can range from, for instance, a small item falling off the top of a van through to large trailers rolling.

On state highways in the Auckland region, there were 115 crashes (four were Serious, 17 involved minor injuries and 94 involved nil Injuries), and on local roads in the Auckland region there were 65 crashes (two involved serious, nine involved minor and 54 involved nil injuries).

For 2024, there have been no incidents involving unsecured loads recorded in CAS as of 16 August 2024.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heidi North', with a stylized, flowing script.

Heidi North

Acting Regional Manager – Communications and Engagement, Auckland & Northland