

24 October 2019

Hugh Davenport

Dear Hugh

### ***Request for information***

Thank you for your email dated 16 September 2019 requesting further information on public injured in Police vehicle incidents. Your follow up request stated:

*Thanks for that. I find it surprising that this information exists given that the Police have multiple times already refused to provide this information saying it doesn't exist. This is shown by the responses below:*

*- Superintendent Steve Greally delivered by WRIGHT-MCCARTHY, Hannah on Aug 12 2019. "This information is not recorded by the Police".*

*- From Ministerial Services on Aug 27 2019. "I can confirm that we have no register holding information on persons injured in crashes involving Police vehicles."*

*Yet today, you somehow find a register holding information on persons injured in crashes involving Police vehicles. What has changed? Why has this information mysteriously just started existing? Are the Police going to revisit their policies and procedures of responding to OIA requests to ensure that they are correct? Or are the Police going to continue to act against the spirit of the OIA and blatantly break the law every chance they get? It would be really nice if the Police could just be transparent and helpful when asked for information.*

*Given the above shows that Police do in fact hold the information I made in my original request, can that information please be provided for the year 2018, including the description and outcomes of those incidents. I note that this is now overdue.*

*In response to your response. You mention that since 2016, only 7 events have been notified to Worksafe. Given the number is so low,*

#### **Police National Headquarters**

180 Molesworth St, Wellington  
Telephone: 04 474 9499 [www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

*I would like to request all 7 of these events as they were notified to Worksafe, and also any policies or procedures that changed in response to all 7 of those events, and also the outcome for the staff member involved in each of those 7 events (ie, were they given remedial training, suspended, employment terminated, nothing done at all).*

*In addition, I would like to request the number of events notified to Worksafe since 2016 that involve injury to Police staff caused by a vehicle driven by Police staff.*

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 and I enclose the following information:

1. The reason we could provide the information you requested on 27 August 2019 is because notifications to WorkSafe are tracked separately from the traffic crash reports, the use of which was outlined in our email to you earlier that day.
2. Our previous responses to you on this subject remain correct and will not be revised. The number of events referred to WorkSafe does not equal the number of persons injured in crashes involving a Police vehicle, which was previously explained not to be recorded in traffic crash reports. The responses provided are based on information derived from the systems available to us and are in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982.
3. Further information about the seven events notified to WorkSafe is provided in the table below. In each case WorkSafe have advise they will take no further action, except for one for which we are awaiting their response. Although policies and procedures are regularly reviewed to keep pace with good practice and changes to the work environment, there are no changes that can be directly attributed to any of these seven events.

<b>Year</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Brief Event Description</b>	<b>Injury to Public</b>
2019	Eastern	Fleeing driver crashed	Death of driver of car, no passengers.
2019	Tasman	Fleeing driver crashed	Hospitalisation of driver of motorcycle.
2019	Central	Low speed collision	Hospitalisation of driver of moped.

<b>Year</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Brief Event Description</b>	<b>Injury to Public</b>
2019	Waitemata	Fleeing driver crashed	Hospitalisation of two passengers, driver uninjured.
2019	Canterbury	Fleeing driver crashed	Hospitalisation of two occupants of oncoming car. Third occupant and fleeing driver of car uninjured.
2019	Waitemata	Fleeing driver crashed	Hospitalisation of driver of car.
2019	Counties Manukau	Fleeing driver crashed	Hospitalisation of driver and passenger of car, no other passengers.

4. Your request for information about the outcome of the seven events for the staff members involved is withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.
5. Over the same period (i.e. since 1 April 2016, when the Health and Safety at Work Act came into force), NZ Police has notified Worksafe of eleven events that involve injury to Police staff caused by a vehicle driven by Police staff.

<b>Year</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Brief Event Description</b>	<b>Injury to Staff</b>
2016	RNZPC	MVA – single vehicle	Passenger hospitalised, driver uninjured
2016	Waitemata	MVA – single vehicle	Driver hospitalised
2017	Waitemata	MVA – single vehicle	Driver hospitalised
2017	Bay of Plenty	Fleeing driver struck pedestrian officer	Pedestrian hospitalised
2018	Counties Manukau	MVA – single vehicle	Passenger hospitalised, driver uninjured
2018	Counties Manukau	MVA – single vehicle	Driver hospitalised
2018	Bay of Plenty	Police vehicle struck pedestrian officer during fleeing driver event	Pedestrian hospitalised
2018	Waitemata	MVA – single vehicle	Driver hospitalised

<b>Year</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Brief Event Description</b>	<b>Injury to Staff</b>
2018	Canterbury	Fleeing driver struck pedestrian officer	Pedestrian hospitalised
2108	Waikato	MVA – two vehicle collision	Driver hospitalised, all others uninjured
2019	Waikato	Crushed by vehicle door	Passenger hospitalised

You have the right, under section 28 (3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my response if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



Mel Aitken  
National Manager, Safer People