

02 JUN 2015

James Littlejohn
fyi-request-2660-93562034@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Littlejohn

I refer to your request of 28 April 2015 made under the Official Information Act (OIA) 1982 for information on accident compensation appeals. On 5 May 2015 our request was referred by ACC to the Ministry of Justice for reply.

You have requested *“a summary of the number of claims that have been heard on appeal each year from 2012 to present, broken down by the number of months it has taken them to be heard as calculated from the date when the notice of appeal is filed”*.

There are two judicial bodies that hear accident compensation appeals:

- The District Court Registry hears appeals relating to decisions made under the Accident Compensation Act 2001.
- The Accident Compensation Appeal Authority hears appeals relating to decisions made under the 1972 and 1982 Acts.

Data for both the District Court Registry and the Appeal Authority is presented in the tables below. The tables record the number of appeals received and completed by each body by calendar year and the average time taken (in calendar days) for those appeals to be completed (from the date the appeal was received). The Ministry records this information in calendar days rather than months. Furthermore by receiving the information in days you are given the most accurate figures possible.

Table 1 –ACC District Court registry

Year	Number of appeals received	Number of appeals completed	Average time taken for appeals to be completed
2012	799	576	637 days
2013	669	830	752 days
2014	445	1,073	1,010 days
2015 (to 30 April 2015)	148	190	772 days

Table 2 – Accident Compensation Appeal Authority

Year	Number of appeals received	Number of appeals completed	Average time taken for appeals to be completed
2012	16	11	621 days
2013	20	18	1,320 days
2014	9	27	1,439 days
2015 (to 30 April 2015)	3	4	337 days

Since 2013 these two jurisdictions have focused on disposing of their oldest and more complicated cases. This has formed part of the Ministry's goal to halve the time it takes to deliver justice services by the end of 2017. By disposing of the oldest cases average time taken for appeals to be completed has naturally increased. The average timeframe is expected to continue to reduce as older cases are completed. By way of comparison, the average age of active cases before the Accident Compensation Appeal Authority is 642 days and the average age of active cases before the District Court is 689 days.

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response to your Official Information Act 1982 request, please contact Antony Paltridge, Team Leader, Media and External Relations, at Antony.Paltridge@justice.govt.nz or call (04) 918 8980 or 027 689 0667.

You have the right, by way of complaint to the Office of the Ombudsmen under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision. The Ombudsmen may be contacted by writing to PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

I trust this reply provides you with the information you need.

Yours sincerely



Heather Baggott
General Manager, Special Jurisdictions

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