

12 May 2017

Mr Pablo Gomes Ludermir
fyi-request-5795-a40c4e6a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Ludermir

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your request of 27 April 2017, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982:

- “ 1. *The number of claims for gradual onset hearing loss caused by noise while crossing in the Mount Victoria Tunnel*
2. *Age range of people affected, specifically how many were still students at the time of the claim*”.

ACC's Response

ACC will not have accepted any claims for gradual onset hearing loss caused by noise while crossing in the Mount Victoria Tunnel.

We can provide cover for hearing loss when it has been caused by injury and 6 percent or more of the hearing loss is injury-related. Injuries include:

- occupational or work-related noise induced hearing loss, which is a slowly developing loss of hearing as the result of exposure to continuous or intermittent loud noise at work over a long period (several years). Also known as gradual process
- trauma, for example, head injury, or
- treatment injury, for example hearing loss caused by medication or surgical incidents.

The scenario outlined in your question does not match any of these criteria. Most notably gradual processes claims must be work related.

ACC is happy to answer your questions

If you have any questions about the information provided, ACC will be happy to work with you to answer these. You can contact us at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz or in writing to *Government Services, PO Box 242, Wellington 6140*.

You have the right to complain to the Office of the Ombudsman about our decision to withhold some of the information. You can call them on 0800 802 602 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays, or write to *The Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143*.

Yours sincerely

Government Services