

2 August 2017

Leah Abrams
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Dear Leah

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 26 July 2017 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"I would like to request the total number of cases broken down across regions in NZ of cases and clients over the last 3 years who have been referred to ACC as the result of a drunk/drugged or impaired driver car crash".

Our response

Unfortunately, ACC does not hold the information you have requested.

The information we hold on individual claims is largely reliant on the information clients initially provided to their health professionals on ACC45 injury claim forms. There are a number of different fields on the form to fill out, some of which are mandatory, and some not. For example, it is mandatory for clients to indicate where their accident occurred, whether the accident occurred at work, and their occupation. It is, in contrast, voluntary to fill out a free text field on the form which asks clients to provide a brief description of how their accident happened. As it is not mandatory to complete this field, not every client does so. While ACC will be informed that the cause of the client's injury was a motor vehicle crash, we generally are not provided with information as to what caused the crash itself.

We did consider transferring your request to either the Ministry of Transport or the New Zealand Transport Agency, but as your query related specifically to ACC clients we do not have reason to believe either of those agencies hold that information. These decisions comply with section 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

Having said that, as you are probably aware both agencies provide crash data on line including information on impaired drivers, so both could be potential sources of information for you. Therefore, if you haven't already, you might like to approach these agencies directly.

ACC is happy to answer your questions

If you have any questions or concerns about this response, ACC will be happy to work with you to resolve these. Please address any concerns by emailing GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz or in writing to *Government Engagement and Support, PO Box 242, Wellington 6140*.

If you are unhappy with ACC's response, you may make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman. 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 Engagement and Support