

15 May 2013

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Dear Aaron

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 3 April 2013 requesting information about crashes at Waikato intersections under the Official Information Act 1982. The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) wrote to you on 29 April 2013 to extend the time available to respond to your request.

Please note that some crashes in the recent past may not yet be captured.

I have responded to each of your questions in turn below.

'How many crashes have occurred at Waikato intersections between 2007 to March 24, 2012? I would like this broken down on a year by year basis

2007 - March 24 2012							
Crash Type	Crash Year						Grand total
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Fatal	15	14	11	8	12	6	66
Serious	55	74	75	51	72	13	340
Minor	348	365	313	357	293	58	1734
Non-injury	1180	998	983	969	873	152	5155
Grand total	1598	1451	1382	1385	1250	229	7295

Between 2007 and March 24, 2012, on average how many crashes happen at Waikato intersections per year, per week and per day?

Crashes	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of crashes	1598	1451	1382	1385	1250	229
Number of weeks	52	52	52	52	52	11
On average per week	30.73	27.90	26.58	26.63	24.04	20.82
Number of days	365	366	365	365	365	83
On average per day	4.38	3.96	3.79	3.79	3.42	2.76

From March 25, 2012 to March 25, 2013, how many crashes have occurred at Waikato intersections?

Crashes	2012	2013	Grand total
Fatal	7	0	7
Serious	54	14	68
Minor	180	53	233
Non-injury	577	109	686
Grand total	818	176	994

On average how many crashes are happening per week and per day?

Crashes	2012	2013
Number of crashes	818	176
Number of weeks	40	11
On average per week	20.45	16
Number of days	281	83
On average per day	2.91	2.12

Since March 25, 2012, how many crashes have been linked to motorists not obeying the give way rules? Anything else you could add on this topic would be appreciated.'

Early indications are that there are no changes to the crash record which can clearly be attributed to changing the rule. There are many factors which affect the crash record including random variation which means changes in the crash record cannot be clearly attributed to specific causes. This will still be the case after collecting several years of data.

We expect the rule change to have the greatest effect on 'right turn against' crashes (collisions between oncoming vehicles where one is turning right or waiting to turn right). There has been a noticeable reduction in these crashes for both serious and non-injury crashes. These are the most promising figures and over time are most likely to show the benefit of the rule changes.

For crashes involving the two movements where the right of way has changed (oncoming vehicles both turning into the same road and crossing vehicles both turning right at an uncontrolled T junction) there has been a small reduction in crashes but not noticeably different from the trend.

Overall, the NZTA is very pleased with how well Kiwi drivers have adapted to the rule changes and Police continue to tell us that drivers are applying the new rules very well.

Results from an NZTA-commissioned survey of 1,000 drivers carried out in April 2012 showed a sharp increase in levels of awareness and understanding of the rule changes after they were introduced on 25 March 2012. 90% of respondents chose the correct option when asked which vehicle gives way at an uncontrolled T intersection – compared with 61% of respondents who answered correctly when surveyed in February 2012. For the right-hand turn rule, 89% answered correctly in the April 2012 survey compared with 74% in February 2012.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the NZTA, please contact Andy Knackstedt, National Media Manager, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (04) 894 6285.

Yours sincerely



Ernst Zöllner
Director of Road Safety
For Chief Executive