



Department for Transport

Road Safety Statistics
Department for Transport
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Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk
Our Ref: F0020362
22 October 2021

Abi Bennetts,

Sent by email to: request-796318-2801c155@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Abi Bennetts,

Request for Information under FOI Act 2000

I refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), dated 01st October 2021. Specifically, you asked for:

Data regarding the number of car accidents that were either caused by or were involving animals, for period 01/12/2019-01/01/2021. 1.Total number of car accidents 2. Total number of car accidents caused by, or involving animals, and animal type.

Data on road accidents is collected as part of the STATS19 data collection system of accidents reported by the police.

STATS19 captures accidents involving human death or personal injury occurring on the Highway ('road' in Scotland) and notified to the police within 30 days of occurrence, and in which one or more vehicles are involved, are to be reported. Therefore, accidents where no death or personal injury is reported are not collected by STATS19.

The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving cars between 01/12/2019 and 31/12/2020 by month:

Month	Numbers	
	2019	2020
January	..	8567
February	..	7705
March	..	5729
April	..	2742
May	..	4695
June	..	5708
July	..	6981
August	..	7589
September	..	7872
October	..	7717
November	..	6583
December	9041	7231
Total	9041	79119

STATS19 does not capture accidents involving/caused by animals, but does record cases where an object in the carriageway is hit. The number of reported personal injury accidents involving cars

between 01/12/2019 and 31/12/2020 where the object hit is an animal (except ridden horses), by month:

Month	Numbers	
	2019	2020
January	..	11
February	..	10
March	..	12
April	..	5
May	..	5
June	..	5
July	..	5
August	..	16
September	..	16
October	..	19
November	..	12
December	10	12
Total	10	128

The vehicles included in the car category are taxis (including private hire), cars (including private hire, minibus and motor caravan.)

The type of animal hit is not collected in the STATS19 data collection. All the information collected by the Department in the STATS19 data collection can be found in the STATS19 form. Instructions on how to complete the form can be found in the STATS20 guide, and information on what is included in Stats19 is available in the guidance, at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stats19-forms-and-guidance>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/230596/stats20-2011.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/259012/rrcgb-quality-statement.pdf

Road safety statistics are reported on a calendar year basis. The latest annual published statistics are for 2020. Data on reported personal injury road accidents in Great Britain for 2021 will be published in 2022.

The relevant information that we do hold is being withheld, in reliance on the exemption at section 22 of the Act, which relates to 'information intended for future publication' (the full text of the exemption is attached at Annex A). In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure.

There is a clear public interest in road accident data and statistics being put into the public domain. This allows people to make informed decisions on road safety issues based on the up-to-date accident data. However, it is also important that Official Statistics are released in compliance with the relevant legislation (the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007) and in an orderly manner that promotes public confidence in their objectivity and integrity.

The release of pre-announced Official Statistics is fully consistent with the legislation and promotes objectivity and integrity by making the figures available to all users in the same format at the same time. The selective release of figures to requesters, in advance and based on incomplete and unchecked data, would undermine these principles. Furthermore, there is a substantial body of

data for 2020 and earlier years that have already been made publicly available and that provide a sound basis for many decisions on road safety matters. Therefore, on balance, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure in respect of the 2021 accident data.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's FOI Advice Team at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gov.uk

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Please send or copy any follow-up correspondence relating to this request to the FOI Advice Team to help ensure that it receives prompt attention. Please also remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you have any queries about road safety statistics, please contact Roadacc.stats@dft.gov.uk, quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Assia Djouadi
Road Safety Statistics Team

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

FOIA Section 22 Exemption in full

(1) Information is exempt information if

(a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),

(b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and

(c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which falls within subsection (1).