

14 September 2016

Sasha Borissenko
Email: fyi-request-4446-5b4c33d1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Borissenko

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your request of 16 August 2016, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982:

I would like to please request any information relating to any claims to ACC that include the terms "Pokemon Go" in the circumstances surrounding each accident.

ACC advises it has received less than four claims which record "Pokemon Go" in the circumstances surrounding the accident. ACC does not report values less than four for privacy reasons. This is because it would be inappropriate to do so as there is a need to protect people's privacy (including that of people who have died). We have also been unable to identify why the release of this information would be in the public interest. This decision complies with section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

When considering the information provided, please note that the data ACC collects is largely reliant on the information claimants provide when the ACC45 form is completed. The ACC45 is an electronic claim form with a variety of fields, some of which are mandatory, some not. For example, mandatory fields include when the accident occurred, whether the accident occurred at work, and the claimant's occupation.

It is not mandatory to complete the free text field providing a brief description of how the accident happened, and not every claimant does so. The reason ACC does not require this information is that the ACC scheme operates on a no fault basis. Cover is available by virtue of a person simply having suffered a personal injury and is not determined by how that injury occurred. Therefore, while that information does have an inherent value in informing our understanding of how and why accidents occur, strictly speaking, it is unnecessary for the purpose of processing claims under the Act.

It also needs to be noted that even where claimants do provide a description of how their injury occurred, there is a large degree of variability in the nature and quality of

the descriptions provided. This can make it difficult to search for a particular item or issue with any degree of accuracy.

These limitations mean that, while largely representative of the claims received by ACC, the data provided should not be considered a completely definitive measure of the claims ACC received in the relevant period.

Comments and queries

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