

2 May 2018

Jan MacPherson  
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Dear Ms MacPherson

Ref: 0051724

### Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request of 3 April 2018, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*"...the number of gradual process work related injuries covered by the corporation due to back injuries caused by many years in the meat industry".*

#### Our response

The following table shows the number of new and accepted gradual process claims for back injuries lodged by meat processing workers between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2017.

Table 1: New and accepted gradual process back injury claims for workers in the meat processing industry

Injury site	Claim count		
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Lower back/spine	21	28	24
Upper back/spine	<4	0	0

Please note the following in relation to the data provided:

- A financial year is 1 July to 30 June.
- Only claims with an accepted cover decision have been included.
- New claims are counted by the date they are lodged with ACC. A claim can be lodged immediately after an injury has occurred or at a later date.
- The classification unit is used is '21110 – Meat processing'.
- Only work-related claims have been provided.
- Data was up to date as at 26 April 2018 and may differ if re-run at a later date.
- The data includes Accredited Employer claims.

We do not disclose values less than four to help limit the potential for particular individuals, or matters specific to certain individuals, to be identified. This decision is made under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. We have considered the public interest in making this information available, and have determined that it does not outweigh our need to protect the privacy of individuals.

#### Queries

If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, ACC will be happy to work with you to resolve these. Please address any concerns by emailing [GES@acc.co.nz](mailto:GES@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**