

25 June 2018

Cleo11

fyi-request-7756-3f9a2f4d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Cleo11

Ref: 0051867

Official Information Act Request

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

"...the number of serious injury claims in Northland for 2016 and 2017 and any other statistics relating to TBI or spinal injury for the years 2016-2017."

Your request for "any other statistics" was further refined on 11 May 2018, as follows:

"How many TBI and Spinal Injuries were claimed in Northland for 2016-2017?"

"How much did ACC pay out for the years 2017 and 2016 to Northland Clients who suffered a TBI or Spinal Injury?"

Our response

Please find attached three tables that provide information on serious injury (SI), brain/concussion injury and spinal injury claims for financial years 2014/15 to 2017/18 year to date (YTD) in Northland.

Interpreting the data

The data was extracted on 22 June 2018 and may differ if re-run at a later date.

The data is counted by financial years between 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2017, and 1 July 2017 – 31 May 2018. The costs are GST exclusive.

Location is based on accident location, and may not be where the client was residing at the time the claim was lodged, or is currently residing.

ACC identifies head injury claims using the injury diagnosis concussion or brain injury/concussion. ACC does not use TBI as an injury diagnosis.

Serious Injury

Serious injury is an internal ACC classification of an injury that is complex and likely to require lifetime medical, rehabilitation and disability support from ACC. ACC groups these claims once the organisation has sufficient evidence from medical and rehabilitation professionals to assign it to a serious injury group. Evidence is based on international measurements of spinal and brain injury, and other comparable injuries (other serious injury claims can include burns, multiple amputations and blindness). Serious injury claims are managed in a way that acknowledges the significant adjustment to a person's life and the support required.

New claims and active claims

New claims have been counted by the date that the claim was lodged with ACC. This can be immediately after the injury occurred or at any later stage.

Active claims are ones that generated a payment in the period specified. These claims were not necessarily lodged, or had the accident occur, in the same period. A claim may be active over many periods and therefore appear more than once in the data. Active claims also include all new claims in that period for which a payment was made.

Costs

The costs that appear in Table 3 are the cost to ACC of treatment and entitlements except the cost of emergency treatment at public hospitals. Treatment provided by Public Health Acute Services is bulk funded and costs are not allocated to individual claims.

Privacy

ACC does not disclose data below a certain level to protect the privacy of individuals. This decision is made under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Accordingly, we have used the value <4 where the claim count is between one and three. This limits the potential for particular individuals or matters specific to certain individuals being identified. Withholding in this way is necessary to protect the privacy of these individuals. In doing so, we have considered the public interest in making the information available and have determined that it does not outweigh the need to protect the privacy of these individuals.

Queries or concerns

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 email to GES@acc.co.nz.

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

New claims - Northland

Table 1: Number of new claims lodged in the period between financial years 2014/15 and 2017/18 year to date, broken down by the injury type indicator and the financial year the claim was lodged.

Injury Type Indicator	Lodged Financial Year			
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 YTD 31 May 2018
Non SI - Brain/Concussion Injury	953	1,099	1,186	1,333
Non SI - Spinal Injury	417	536	755	409
Non SI - Brain/Concussion Injury and Spinal Injury	5	9	<4	10
SI - Brain Injury	8	8	11	9
SI - Spinal Injury	<4	5	<4	<4
SI - Claim Other	7	6	9	4

Active claims - Northland

Table 2: Number of claims active in the period between financial years 2014/15 and 2017/18 year to date, broken down by the injury type indicator and the financial year the claim was active.

Injury Type Indicator	Active Financial Year			
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 YTD 31 May 2018
Non SI - Brain/Concussion Injury	1,153	1,210	1,360	1,401
Non SI - Spinal Injury	569	648	946	563
Non SI - Brain/Concussion Injury and Spinal Injury	13	17	15	16
SI - Brain Injury	151	158	162	170
SI - Spinal Injury	71	75	78	79
SI - Claim Other	66	69	79	80

Table 3: Cost (excl. GST) of claims active in the period between financial years 2014/15 and 2017/18 year to date, broken down by the injury type indicator and the financial year the claim was active.

Injury Type Indicator	Active Financial Year			
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 YTD 31 May 2018
Non SI - Brain/Concussion Injury	\$5,431,712	\$6,028,203	\$6,535,915	\$7,194,049
Non SI - Spinal Injury	\$3,256,361	\$2,967,132	\$3,120,145	\$2,428,374
Non SI - Brain/Concussion Injury and Spinal Injury	\$425,181	\$515,377	\$361,946	\$418,099
SI - Brain Injury	\$10,083,825	\$10,749,937	\$13,279,134	\$13,969,676
SI - Spinal Injury	\$8,601,586	\$11,248,177	\$12,338,199	\$12,759,226
SI - Claim Other	\$2,630,155	\$2,787,072	\$3,653,028	\$3,722,707