

29 July 2005

XXX

Dear XXX,

I am writing to in response to your request made on 5 July regarding accident statistics relating to roadworks on UK motorways.

Information collected using the STATS19 accident report form.

The official road casualty statistics which are collected by the police and reported to the Department using STATS19 record where an accident occurred on a motorway and whether there were roadworks at the site of the accident regardless of whether the roadworks were deemed to have contributed to the accident. Statistics on accidents involving roadworks on all roads in Great Britain are published in table 17 of Road Casualties Great Britain which is available to download from the Transport Statistics section of the DfT website. STATS19 does not separately identify casualties among people working on the road, although they are included in these figures.

Between 1999 and 2004, data on factors that contributed towards accidents were collected by 15 police forces on a trial voluntary basis. The presence of roadworks was one of the contributory factors that could be reported. Further information on the presence of roadworks as a contributory factor to accidents between 1999 and 2002 is available from the article 'Contributory factors to road accidents' which is available to download from the Road Safety research reports section of the DfT website.

In response to a request from the Health and Safety Executive in the quality review of road accidents statistics, from January 2005 additional information should be collected to identify people killed or injured while in the course of 'on the road' work. 'On the road work' relates to a work activities carried out on the public highway/ road which are readily identifiable to the reporting police officer. This will not however distinguish casualties among people specifically engaged in road maintenance work as it will also include people killed or injured whilst involved in other forms of 'on the road' work such as inspection services and traffic control. The first results from this data will be available in 2006.

Road casualty statistics for Northern Ireland are collected by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and are published by the Department for Regional Development as part of their Northern Ireland Transport Statistics compendium which is available from their website.

Information collected by authorities responsible for the Strategic Road network.

I have attached the response to a Parliamentary Question asked in June 2003 regarding the number of people killed and injured whilst working on road repairs and improvements on Motorways and trunk roads in England between 2000 and 2002. The information in the response came from the Highways Agency, who are responsible for the strategic road network (which includes motorways) in England. The Agency are currently undertaking a review of their road work accident statistics and are due to report back later in 2005.

Responsibility for strategic roads in the rest of the UK lies with the following authorities.

Northern Ireland	Department for Regional Development
Scotland	Scottish Executive
Wales	National Assembly for Wales

Research.

The Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) has prepared three papers which analyse different aspects of accidents at roadworks.

1. TRL Report TRL 595; Safety performance of traffic management at major road works. (published in 2004)

I have attached a summary of this report for your information. The full report may be purchased by a member of the public from TRL for £40.00.

2. PR/T/004/2000 Study into the causes and implications of accidents and incidents at road works. This is a TRL unpublished report prepared on behalf of the Highways Agency. I have attached a copy of this report.

An extract from the conclusions for this report, Section 6.3 (P30), Common Driver Behavioural Factors:

"Other common accident contributory factors found were when drivers were driving:

- too fast for the conditions;
- too close;
- too aggressively;
- without due care and attention."

the recommendations include:

- "Discourage aggressive driving and speeding by increasing enforcement of offences at road work sites e.g. more frequent use of speed cameras at road work sites;
- Introduce double penalties for driving offences at road works (as carried out in the USA)."

3. PR/T/032/2002 : A study of traffic accidents involving road works personnel and vehicles. This is a TRL unpublished report prepared on behalf of the Highways Agency. I have attached a copy of this report.

This report was instigated at the request of the STTMOI Working Group.

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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 by writing to me at the above address. Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Campbell