

Our ref: 100269
Your ref:

Highways England
Second Floor
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7LW

Email:

Direct Line:

28 August 2019

Dear

Freedom of Information Act A47 Lowestoft to King's Lynn accident data

Thank you for your email of 22 August under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requesting accident data and information about the A47 between Lowestoft and King's Lynn for the last 5 years. We have now completed our search for the requested information. I have extracted each of your requests and respond as follows:

1. How many accidents have occurred?

The table below provides the most recent five years of validated data we hold. This is for the period 23 August 2012 to 22 August 2017, relative to the date of your request.

Year	Severity			Number of Injury Collisions
	Fatal	Serious	Slight	
2012-2013	10	24	198	145
2013-2014	4	23	199	155
2014-2015	3	29	196	141
2015-2016	4	22	182	138
2016-2017	6	33	189	138

We are withholding 2018 data because it has not yet been validated. Information relating to road traffic collisions in Great Britain is collected annually by the Department for Transport. To allow for the information to be properly validated it is typically published during the autumn of the year *after* it is collected. Therefore, data for 2018 is not yet available but will be published later this year.

In withholding the information, I am relying upon the exemption under [Section 22\(1\)](#) information intended for future publication.

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The key public interest factors for and against disclosure are set out at the end of this letter.

We do not hold any data for 2019.

The remaining requested information is compiled within Annex A attached.

2. Cause of crash/accident ie overtaking or speeding

Contributory factors (as noted by the police during their investigations) can be found in columns J, L, N, P, R and T and the likelihood of them as a factor is indicated, where noted, in the intervening columns, K, M, O, Q, S and U.

3. Type of vehicles involved

Vehicle types are indicated in column D.

4. Severity of incident ie fatal or non-fatal

The accident severity, either slight, serious or fatal, is provided in column I.

5. State of driver at the time of accident, ie under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The state of the driver at the time of accident, ie under the influence of alcohol or drugs is indicated in column J if it is considered the primary contributory factor in the incident.

6. Weather conditions at the time of incident.

Weather conditions are provided in column G.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. Our internal review process is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure>

If you require a print copy, please phone our Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000; or email info@highwaysengland.co.uk. You should contact me if you wish to complain.

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

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote reference number 100269 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team Leader
Operations (East)
Email:

Request for accident data between A47 King's Lynn and Lowestoft

FOIA Exemption S.22 – information intended for future publication

Factors supporting disclosure

- Disclosure of the information would be consistent with our commitment to proactively publishing data on matters of a wider public interest
- The public has an interest in learning the number and type of incidents that have occurred on any given section of the road network and expects data to be available.

Factors supporting non-disclosure

- Validated 2018 data is intended for publication by the Department for Transport later this year, 2019.
- Unvalidated data is likely to include errors and omissions that will be corrected during the validation process
- Publication on the Gov.UK website will take place once the validation process has been completed
- As the information is of interest to the wider public it is important it can be accessed simultaneously by the public rather than piecemeal by disclosure to a small number of individuals under the FOIA. Therefore, it is in the wider interest that information is accessible to the public by adhering to the publication schedule.

Conclusion: there are compelling arguments which support withholding the information which outweigh those supporting release.

Date of PIT review: August 2019