

Our ref: 100740  
Your ref:

Highways England  
Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Telephone:

Email:

23 January 2020

Dear

### **Freedom of Information Request Collision and Casualty numbers in East of England**

Thank you for your email of 20 January 2020 requesting information about collision and casualty numbers in the East of England. I have dealt with your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I confirm that we do hold the requested information. However, under [Section 21](#) of the Freedom of Information Act, we are not required to provide information which is already reasonably to you. The information you requested is available via the gov.uk website at <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/cb7ae6f0-4be6-4935-9277-47e5ce24a11f/road-safety-data> where there are tables for the national stats19 dataset covering at least the period 2010 to 2018.

We do hold some data about collisions and casualty numbers in the East of England for 2019. However, it is not our policy to provide data that is not validated and may not therefore be accurate. The information will be published by the Department for Transport later this year once they have completed its validation.

I am therefore withholding 2019 data in reliance of [Section 22](#) of the Freedom of Information Act, information intended for future publication. This is a qualified exemption and therefore subject to a public interest test. We have applied the test and found that withholding the information outweighs publication at this time. A copy of the public interest test is attached to this reply.

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](mailto: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 100740 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Services Manager (Customer)  
Operations (East)  
Email:

## Request for Accident Data

### 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 2019 data is intended for publication by the Department for Transport later this year, 2020.
- 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: 21 January 2019**