

Our ref: 101534

Highways England
National Traffic Operations Centre
3 Ridgeway
Quinton Business Park
Birmingham
B32 1AF
United Kingdom

3 November 2020

Dear

Freedom of Information Request

I am writing to advise you that we do hold information that is relevant to your request on the 27 October 2020 but regret to inform you of my decision not to disclose this information.

The information you requested is being withheld in reliance on the exemption in section 22 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/22> of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because the data you have requested has not yet been published.

In applying this exemption we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. Following this test it was concluded that because the analysis on the recently released 2019 Stats 19 data has yet to be completed and verified, and that the 2019 data will be published in the future, releasing the 2019 data now is not in the public interest. The reasoning for this was that the current data may be subject to change or be updated during the analysis process and be misrepresentative if issued now. This would mean further resources would have been spent explaining the differences between the finalised data and the data held now if it was released before the official publication date.

Highways England responds to requests for collision data using validated STATS19 data, which forms part of the National Statistics. Stats19 data records personal injury accidents on public roads but does not indicate which incidents have been attended by Highways England's Traffic Officer Service.

Please see the tables below for the latest data for collision's mapped to the Highways England Strategic Road Network in **2018**.

Serious collisions by light conditions and road classification		
Road class	Light condition	2018
A-road	Darkness - lights lit	82

	Darkness - lights unlit	7
	Darkness - no lighting	156
	Darkness - lighting unknown	11
	Total Darkness	256
Motorway	Darkness - lights lit	82
	Darkness - lights unlit	15
	Darkness - no lighting	113
	Darkness - lighting unknown	6
	Total Darkness	216
	Grand Total	472

Fatal collisions by light conditions and road classification		
Road class	Light condition	2018
A-road	Darkness - lights lit	14
	Darkness - lights unlit	1
	Darkness - no lighting	52
	Darkness - lighting unknown	-
	Total Darkness	67
Motorway	Darkness - lights lit	12
	Darkness - lights unlit	6
	Darkness - no lighting	23
	Darkness - lighting unknown	3
	Total Darkness	44
	Grand Total	111

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 the Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail 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 **101534** in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Performance Analysis & Modelling Un