

27 April 2023

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-024309

Thank you for your email of 5 April 2023, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I seek to make an Official Information Act Request for Injury and Fatality data arising from the use of Elevated Work Platforms.

For the sake of clarity Mobile Elevated Work Platforms includes the following:

- *Scissor Lifters*
- *Cherry Pickers*
- *Boom Lifters*
- *Self-propelled Man Lift/Mast lift*

My request excludes stationary platforms such as scaffolding, scaffolding towers, ladders and trestles.

To assist with the production of health & safety initiatives, I require the following injury and fatality information:

- 1. Cost of injuries, being cost of new injuries and cost of active injuries for the years 2018 / 2019 / 2020 / 2021 / 2022*
- 2. Details on any fatalities, and general geographical location of where the fatality occurred for the years 2018 / 2019 / 2020 / 2021 / 2022*
- 3. Nature of non-fatal injuries sustained, both type of injury and where on the body, for the years 2018 / 2019 / 2020 / 2021 / 2022*
- 4. Information on the occupations of those who sustained injuries for the time period indicated.*

Can I please receive the information in the standard excel spreadsheet format.

The requested information is attached to this letter as Appendix 1

When interpreting the data provided, please refer to the 'Notes' tab.

Claim counts fewer than four

Some values in the tables only indicate that the claim count is fewer than four (denoted as <4). In other instances, values are suppressed and denoted as two dots (..). This limits the potential for particular individuals or matters specific to certain individuals from being identified. Withholding the data in this way is necessary to protect our clients' privacy.

This decision has been made under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. 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 our clients' privacy.

There were fewer than four fatal claims that meet the criteria set out in the appendix. However, for the above reason, we are unable to provide further information on these claims.

Limitations on ACC fatality data

ACC is not able to provide comprehensive fatality statistics as ACC data is collected on the basis of claims made. Our data may not represent the total number of fatalities related to accidents for the following reasons:

- Many people are not aware that they can make a claim related to an accidental death of a family member and therefore ACC only ever receives claims for a subset of accidental deaths.
- If a person who has an open claim with ACC dies of their injuries, or other causes, ACC is not necessarily notified of this.
- The data ACC collects about accidental deaths is largely reliant on the information provided on the ACC 21 claim form when a family member seeks entitlements related to the accidental death. Some parts of this form are mandatory to complete, and others are not. It is not mandatory to complete the field describing how the accident happened, and not every person does so.

For more accurate fatality data, we suggest that you contact the Ministry of Health Mortality Collection (MORT), which classifies the underlying cause of death for all deaths registered in New Zealand. More information on MORT is available on www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/national-collections-and-surveys/collections/mortality-collection or by contacting data-enquiries@moh.govt.nz.

In addition, accurate data for workplace fatalities is available from WorkSafe NZ; WorkSafe can be contacted at oiia@worksafe.govt.nz.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public

ACC may decide to proactively release a copy of this response on ACC's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12.

If you have any questions about this response, please get in touch

You can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz. If you are not happy with this response, you can also contact the Ombudsman via info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Ngā mihi



Sara Freitag
Acting Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement

Response:

The data has been extracted based on the following criteria:

- The claim accident / payment date is between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022.
- The claim cover decision is equal to 'Accept'.
- The accident description contains 'cherry picker', 'scissor lift', 'boom lift', 'self-propelled man lift', 'mast lift', 'mobile elevated work platform', 'mewp' or 'ewp', allowing for some spelling variation.

Caveats:

- Accredited employer claims have been excluded.
- New claims – the claims in these tables have been counted by the date that an accident occurred, and may differ to the claim registration / lodgement date. Some claims with accident date between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022 could be missing if they haven't been lodged / registered yet.
- Active claims – are claims that generated a payment in the relevant calendar years. These claims were not necessarily registered, or had the accident occur, in the same calendar year.
- Costs provided are exclusive of GST.
- Active costs are based on payment date. Payment date may be different to the date of service.
- New costs are based on accident date. New costs for claims with accident date in more recent years will be lower since they have less time to accrue costs.
- Costs do not include Public Health Acute Services (PHAS) payments. Treatment for covered claims in public hospitals is provided by an annual service agreement between ACC and the Ministry of Health, and is funded by bulk payments from ACC to the Crown.
- The calendar year in which the service was provided may differ to the calendar year in which the accident happened.
- A claim can cover multiple calendar years. In table 4, a claim which lasts longer than one year is counted once for each calendar year covered. For example, a claim which lasted from 2018 to 2022 would be counted a total of three times.
- The accident description is a non-mandatory free-text field on the ACC45 form. The nature and quality of responses varies. This data should therefore be considered indicative, but not a definitive count of claims.
- Diagnosis and site are based on the primary injury. A claim may have more than one injury diagnosis and sites, but only the primary one is included here.

The data has been extracted on 18 April 2023 and may differ if extracted again at a later date.

Table 1: Number of new claims for injuries related to elevated work platforms with an accident date between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022, broken down by at work status.

At work	Accident Calendar Year				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
No	21	20	31	24	33
Yes	110	116	107	88	114
Grand Total	131	136	138	112	147

Table 2: Number of new claims for work injuries related to elevated work platforms with an accident date between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022, broken down by occupation.

Occupation	Accident Calendar Year				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Carpenters and Joiners	20	23	23	11	15
Building and Related Workers	10	11	10	8	13
Labourers	10	7	6	8	10
Electricians	<4	9	6	10	10
Painters and Paperhangers	5	<4	8	4	10
Fruit Growers	<4	<4	8	<4	4
Gardeners and Nursery Growers	4	6	<4	5	<4
Response Outside Scope	8	<4	<4	<4	<4
Heavy Truck Drivers		6	<4	5	
Sheet-Metal Workers	<4	<4		<4	6
Other / Unknown	46	44	38	..	43
Grand Total	110	116	107	88	114

Table 3: Number of new claims for injuries related to elevated work platforms with an accident date between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022, broken down by injury cause.

Injury Cause	Accident Calendar Year				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lifting/Carrying/Strain	29	77	66	63	85
Loss Balance/Personal Contrl	21	12	19	14	14
Twisting Movement	14	13	11	8	11
Wk Property or Characteristics	15	<4	7	6	8
Pushed or Pulled	6	5	7	4	4
Collision/Knocked Over by Obj	10	7	4	<4	<4
Slipping, Skidding on Foot	<4	6	9	<4	5
Object Coming Loose/Shifting	13	<4	<4	<4	<4
Folding/Collapse		<4	<4	<4	5
Puncture	5	<4	<4	<4	
Other or Unclear Cause	..	6	9	6	11
Grand Total	131	136	138	112	147

Table 4: Number of new claims, number of active claims, and active claim costs (excluding GST) for injuries related to elevated work platforms between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022.

Calendar Year	New Claims	Costs To Date	Active Claims	Active Costs
2018	131	\$1,120,804	152	\$1,409,605
2019	136	\$948,538	172	\$1,183,827
2020	138	\$713,500	168	\$1,566,537
2021	112	\$313,962	171	\$1,461,886
2022	147	\$174,653	186	\$1,150,460

Table 5: Number of new claims for injuries related to elevated work platforms with an accident date between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022, broken down by primary injury site.

Primary Injury Site	Accident Calendar Year				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lower Back/spine	14	23	21	15	21
Knee	13	15	11	15	14
Finger/thumb	12	13	6	12	12
Shoulder	5	11	8	12	8
Neck, Back Of Head Vertebrae	5	8	10	5	15
Ankle	9	<4	12	4	11
Chest	9	11	8	5	6
Foot	6	5	10	7	11
Head (except Face)	5	10	6	4	11
Hand/wrist	12	<4	12	5	<4
Other / Unknown	41	..	34	28	..
Grand Total	131	136	138	112	147

Table 6: Number of new claims for injuries related to elevated work platforms with an accident date between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022, broken down by primary injury diagnosis.

Primary Injury Diagnosis	Accident Calendar Year				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Soft Tissue Injury	98	96	98	86	117
Laceration,puncture,sting	21	19	16	12	14
Fracture/dislocation	<4	11	10	6	5
Dental Injury	<4		4	<4	4
Concussion	<4	<4	<4		<4
Other / Unknown	6
Grand Total	131	136	138	112	147