

13 October 2023

Dear

ATISN 18993 – Accident data 20mph speed limit

Thank you for your request which was received on 16 September 2023. You asked for the following information:

Information regarding the accident data used to make the decision to reduce 30mph limit to 20mph. Specifically, of the accidents in 30mph areas, how many involved a vehicle breaking the 30mph limit? How many involved other factors such as the driver using a mobile phone? Stolen vehicles, banned drivers? How many of the accidents in a 30mph area where there were no other mitigating factors i.e. the driver was driving lawfully at 30mph or under resulted in a death or serious injury?

As part of the data collection on police recorded road collisions, we collect contributory factors (CFs). CFs in road collisions are the key actions and failures that led directly to the accident. They show the opinion of attending police officers for why accidents occurred. Attending police officers may record up to 6 CFs for each accident from a list of 78 possible CFs.

The table below shows the number of police recorded road collisions that occurred on a road with a speed limit of 30mph. It also shows how many collisions had certain CFs recorded (exceeding speed limit, driver using mobile phone, stolen vehicle).

Table 1: Police recorded road collisions, 30mph speed limit, by contributory factors

Contributory factor category	Description	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Injudicious action	Exceeding speed limit	98	119	80	85	81
Impairment or distraction	Driver using mobile phone	6	8	8	2	3
Special codes	Stolen vehicle	10	18	6	4	8
Total collisions		2,282	2,403	1,528	1,736	1,693

Source: Police recorded road collisions, Welsh Government

We do not hold any information on police recorded road collisions that occurred involving banned drivers.

We requested clarification on 28 September 2023 on the final part of your request: “How many accidents in a 30mph area where there were no other mitigating factors i.e. the driver was driving lawfully at 30mph or under resulted in a death or serious injury.” We are unable to respond to this part of your request without clarification. If you do provide the clarification asked for, this will be treated as a new request for information.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

or e-mail: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.org.uk

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely