



ARCS: 292-30
File: JAG-2014-00308

March 21, 2014

Sent via email:

Dear

Re: Request for Access to Records
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)

I am writing further to your request received by the Ministry of Justice. Your request is for:

All relevant reports, credible research and any other documentation that can reliably support the claim that the Minister made stating that the current roadside suspension law in BC has saved 190 lives. Date range is March 1, 2010 to March 1, 2014

Please be advised the records you seek are publically available and do not need to go through the formal FOI process. Your FOI request JAG-2014-00308 has been closed.

In September 2010, the B.C. government introduced the Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP) program – with the goal of reducing impaired driving fatalities in our province by 35% by the end of 2013. Government has been tracking the number of alcohol-related fatalities since the 2010 legislation, compared to historical data and periodically reporting out on the preliminary findings. These two reports provide the data from which the numbers in the February 24, 2014 news release were created:

Alcohol Related Motor Vehicle Fatalities, October 2010 to December 2013 -
www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv/shareddocs/AlcoholRelatedFatalitiesOct2010-Dec2013.pdf

Alcohol Related Motor Vehicle Fatalities, January 2000 to December 2013 -
www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv/shareddocs/AlcoholRelatedFatalitiesJan2000-Dec2013.pdf

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Background on Motor Vehicle Fatality data

When a motor vehicle driven or operated on a roadway where the Motor Vehicle Act applies, directly or indirectly causes death or injury to a person, an Accident Report known as an MV6020 is completed by the police. This MV6020 is used to record information on a wide variety of crash contributing factors including “alcohol” which is recorded as a contributing factor based on indicators that suggest it played a role and following an investigation of the incident. Alcohol as a contributing factor is usually corroborated by police via alcohol testing (at roadside using a handheld breathalyzer device, at the police station using a separate testing device or drawn from blood in hospital). MV6020 reports are forwarded to the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) who input the data into the Traffic Accident System (TAS) database.

The data obtained is used to produce data for the RCMP, Police Services, the BC Chief Coroner’s Office (OCC), the Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles (OSMV), BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit (BCIRPU), and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI). This data is then reconciled with local data held by the RCMP/police and by province-wide data from the OCC and any adjustments, corrections or additions are captured. For example, if the coroner determines from a toxicology test that a deceased driver had alcohol in their blood, then the information in the TAS database will be updated to reflect that and that death will then be coded as one involving alcohol as a contributing factor. The reconciled data is then used to create the motor vehicle fatality data reports, signed off by ICBC, RCMP, OSMV, and the OCC, and officially released by government.

This same methodology of reporting and reconciliation is used for these other motor vehicle fatality reports produced by both our office (OSMV) and ICBC:

2008 to 2012 – Motor Vehicle Fatalities in British Columbia: Statistics -
www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv/shareddocs/MV-Fatal-Victims2008-2012.pdf

ICBC - B.C. and regional statistics on crashes, auto crime and vehicle and driver populations -
www.icbc.com/about-ICBC/Newsroom/quick-statistics.pdf

Steven Roberts, Director of Stakeholder Relations, OSMV, confirms that the University of Victoria’s Centre for Addictions Research of BC (CARBC) study and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) roadside survey provide supporting evidence to the alcohol-related motor vehicle fatality data collect and reconciled as detailed above. These documents are available at:

CARBC news release on the effectiveness of B.C.’s drinking and driving law:
<http://www.carbc.ca/Portals/0/PropertyAgent/714/Files/332/130612MediaRelease.pdf>

Link to the full CARBC study:

<http://dspace.library.uvic.ca:8080/handle/1828/4772>

The B.C. Roadside Survey 2012:

www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv/shareddocs/bc-roadside-report2012.pdf

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Kelly Morita, the analyst assigned to your request, at 250-387-3271. This number can be reached toll-free by calling from Vancouver, 604-660-2421, or from elsewhere in BC, 1-800-663-7867 and asking to be transferred to 250-387-3271.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Kotchonoski', is shown on a light-colored background.

Darlene Kotchonoski for:
Vicki Hudson, Manager
Justice / Social Team
Information Access Operations