

**From:** [Name removed under the Data Protection Act]  
**Sent:** 21 July 2008 15:51  
**To:** [Name removed under the Data Protection Act]  
**Subject:** Your request under the Freedom of Information Act REF#600359

CRS 584350

Dear [Name removed under the Data Protection Act]

I refer to your email of 23 June requesting the number of accidents on and around the Dartford Crossing under the Freedom of Information Act. Thank you for your emails of 24 June and 15 July clarifying that the area you require accident information on is the A282 between junctions 1a and 30, Canterbury Way and the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge, and that you are content for us to provide the information that we have at this stage.

Essex and Kent Police collect data on collisions that result in personal injury and pass it to the local traffic authorities; in this case Kent and Essex Councils who in turn have appointed consultants to maintain the data base and validate the information. Once validated the data is then passed to the Department for Transport who authorize its release to other traffic authorities such as the Highways Agency (HA).

The data is divided into 'Killed and Serious Injury' (KSI) and 'Slight'. The KSI category includes any fatality within 30 days of the incident, an overnight stay in hospital, fractures, head injuries or any significant cuts and bruises, while the slight covers other very minor injuries. The Agency does not have records of damage only collisions, i.e. those where no road users were injured.

As I explained in my email of 15 July this section of the network is divided between two different management areas. The A282 immediately north of junction 1a to just south of junction 30 has only been under Highways Agency management since 2003 and we do not have the validated figures prior to 2002. The table below gives the validated figures for this section from 2002 to 2006.

**Table1**

	KSI	Slight	Total
2002	3	41	44
2003	6	29	35
2004	7	27	34
2005	4	35	39
2006	5	40	45

The data in table 2 gives the number of accidents on the A282 between Junction 30 and Junction 31 from 1994. Figures for 2007 have not yet been validated and therefore cannot be published.

**Table 2**

	KSI		Slight	
	Northbound	Southbound	Northbound	Southbound
1994	0	0	8	3
1995	2	1	4	3
1996	0	0	5	1
1997	0	1	8	11
1998	1	0	7	4
1999	1	1	5	4
2000	1	0	6	14
2001	0	1	4	8
2002	0	2	9	10
2003	1	1	9	8
2004	0	1	7	10
2005	4	0	5	9
2006	1	0	3	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	11	8	80	89

As we have already explained we are continuing to research whether earlier data is available and the cost of retrieval. We will contact you again as soon as possible and advise you of the cost estimate, if necessary, in obtaining this information.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. We will, therefore, be simultaneously releasing to the public the information you requested, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context via our website: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/>

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If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. A leaflet detailing our internal review process is

available. If you require a copy, please phone the Highways Agency Information Line on 08457 50 40 30; or e-mail [ha\\_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.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 the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

**[Name removed under the Data Protection Act]**

Safe roads, Reliable journeys, Informed travellers  
Highways Agency, an Executive Agency of the Department for Transport.