

14 March 2022

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-016798**

Thank you for your email of 15 February 2022, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Can you please send me the data for all noise induced hearing loss claims from 2010 to 2021.*

- 1. By total number – new and active claims year on year*
- 2. By ethnicity*
- 3. By industry*
- 4. By age*
- 5. BY gender*

And

*I am seeking data on covered claims – ie those ACC has accepted for cover. I may not have made that clear. I also want to know the number of claims declined due to falling below the 6% threshold. In the period 2010-2021*

- 1. Can you provide the data on the number of claims declined on the basis that they are below 6%.*
- 2. Can you please provide data on the number of claims that fall between 5-6%.*
- 3. Can you provide data on the cost saving estimated by ACC for claims that fall below the 6% threshold.*

**Our response**

Please find the requested data in the attached appendix. Tables one to five contain the breakdown of the number of all accepted noise-induced hearing loss claims from 2010 to 2021 by new and active claims, ethnicity, industry, age and gender. Table six contains data on the number of claims declined where the hearing loss was below 6% and the number of accepted and declined claims that fall between a hearing loss of 5-6%.

**ACC takes privacy seriously**

ACC does not routinely disclose low value numbers related to claims. Accordingly, some of the values in the tables only indicate that the number is fewer than 4 (denoted as <4). In other instances, values are suppressed and notated as (...). This limits the potential for particular individuals, or matters specific to certain individuals, from being identified.

Withholding in this way is necessary to protect the privacy of these individuals. 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 the privacy of these persons.

**Estimated cost saving for hearing loss claims**

ACC has not undertaken any cost saving estimates for hearing loss claims that fall below the 6% threshold between 2010 and 2021. Work has been completed on the estimated future cost impacts of proposed

policy changes but not the estimated amount that would be saved. Therefore, we are refusing to answer this question as the information does not exist. This decision has been made under section 18(e) of the Act.

**How to get in contact**

If you have any questions, you can email me at [GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz](mailto:GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Sara Freitag

**Acting Manager Official Information Act Services**  
Government Engagement & Support

