| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1626  Responded to: 30th June 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to obtain information relating to road accidents where damaged roads or potholes have been recorded as a factor since the single force came into effect in 2013.

## I believe the phrase used to record this was previously 'poor or defective road surface'.

## I would like to see a total of all incidents and if possible a breakdown of how these were categorised in terms of seriousness.

## For example, could figures of fatal crashes where a poor or defective road surface was recorded please be provided and crashes where there have been injury.

## A breakdown of the number of incidents in each policing area would also be useful if data allows.

The tables at the end of this document provide the number of Road Traffic Collisions and Casualties where ‘defective surface’ was at least one of the contributory factors, broken down by severity.

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 29/06/2023.

On the 12th June 2019, CRaSH was implemented within D Division. On the 3rd July 2019, CRaSH was implemented across the other Police Divisions within Police Scotland. CRaSH replaced the existing procedures for recording Road Traffic Collisions.

Please note that a reportable collision is defined under Section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and describes the legal responsibility on those drivers involved to report the matter to the police. Where those involved exchange personal details, there is no legal requirement to report a collision to the police and this applies particularly to non-injury collisions.

As such, there may have been other collisions within the location of your request, which were not reported to Police Scotland, nor which required a collision report to be created, and will therefore not be included within the statistics

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.

## Table 1: Road Traffic Collisions where defective surface was at least one of the contributory factors, by severity

Period: 1st January 2013 – 31st May 2023

| **Division** | **Severity** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Argyll & West Dunbartonshire | Fatal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Serious | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Slight | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Ayrshire | Fatal | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Serious | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Slight | 10 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | Fatal | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Serious | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Slight | 2 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Edinburgh | Serious | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Slight | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Fife | Serious | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Slight | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Forth Valley | Fatal | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Serious | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Slight | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Greater Glasgow | Serious | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Slight | 9 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Highlands & Islands | Fatal | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Serious | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Slight | 13 | 11 | 15 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Lanarkshire | Serious | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Slight | 5 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| North East | Fatal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Serious | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Slight | 9 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Renfrewshire & Inverclyde | Serious | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Slight | 6 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Tayside | Fatal | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Serious | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Slight | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| The Lothians & Scottish Borders | Serious | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Slight | 0 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| **Total** |  | **88** | **87** | **68** | **54** | **52** | **55** | **47** | **29** | **38** | **32** | **12** |

## Table 2: Road Traffic Casualties where Defective Surface was at least one of the contributory factors, by severity

Period: 1st January 2013 – 31st May 2023

| **Division** | **Severity** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Argyll & West Dunbartonshire | Fatal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Serious | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Slight | 7 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 3 | 11 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Ayrshire | Fatal | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Serious | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Slight | 12 | 8 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | Fatal | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Serious | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Slight | 3 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Edinburgh | Serious | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Slight | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Fife | Serious | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Slight | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Forth Valley | Fatal | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Serious | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Slight | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Greater Glasgow | Serious | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| Slight | 14 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 3 |
| Highlands & Islands | Fatal | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Serious | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Slight | 19 | 13 | 17 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Lanarkshire | Serious | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Slight | 5 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| North East | Fatal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Serious | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| Slight | 12 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Renfrewshire & Inverclyde | Serious | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Slight | 17 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Tayside | Fatal | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Serious | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Slight | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| The Lothians & Scottish Borders | Serious | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Slight | 0 | 6 | 13 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| **Total** |  | **121** | **103** | **84** | **76** | **59** | **66** | **60** | **34** | **50** | **48** | **16** |