

Statistical Microdata – Access Protocols

Overview

This document provides an overview of the protocols currently being developed to grant access to road traffic collision data to external users, e.g., Researchers. The protocols outlined represent the as-is situation and is subject to further refinements in the future. Section 8 (1) of the Road Safety Authority Act 2006 provides the legislative basis for the production of road safety information and statistics using the road traffic collision database by the RSA.

The Minister may direct the Authority to collect, compile, prepare, publish or distribute to such persons (including the Minister) such information and statistics relating to road safety and the functions of the Authority, as the Minister considers appropriate, for national or international planning, policy research and development, monitoring and reporting purposes and may specify any matter concerning the collection, compilation, preparation, publication and distribution of such data and statistics, as the Minister considers appropriate.

Overview of Access Protocols

Section 8 (1) of the Road Safety Authority Act 2006 provides the RSA with a legislative basis for receiving record-level data relating to road traffic collision incidents from An Garda Síochána. A Ministerial Direction pursuant to Section 8(1) of the Act was signed by the Minister of State at the Department of Transport in June 2024. As per Schedule 1 Part 3 of the Act, the RSA will make road traffic collision data available to the following organisations:

1. Local Authorities: for the purposes of assessing collision locations and planning and developing safety improvement works on regional & local roads.
2. The National Transport Authority: for the purposes of transport planning, appraisal and policy development.
3. Researchers: for the purposes of academic and policy research.

The RSA reviewed and agreed upon a list of variables to be shared with Local Authorities and the National Transport Authority in the context of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) principles of necessity and proportionality. In order to share data with Local Authorities and the National Transport Authority, the RSA will enter into Data Sharing Agreements with these organisations.

Road Traffic Collision data which the RSA shall make available to the Local Authorities and the National Transport Authority includes the following categories:

- a) **Time of collision** limited to the day of week, month, year and time (grouped into time bands);
- b) **Detailed location** of the collision including for example co-ordinates, address, route number and route type;

- c) **Collision severity** classification (fatal, serious, non-serious, material damage);
- d) **Total counts for people and vehicles** limited to the overall number of injuries by injury type (fatal, serious, non-serious), the total number of pedestrians injured, the total number of cyclists injured, and the number of vehicles involved;
- e) **Information on the road** including for example road type, junction type, markings, road surface condition, speed limit;
- f) **Information on the vehicles** involved including for example class of vehicle, direction of travel;
- j) **Information on the persons** involved in a collision limited to role and trip purpose ;
- g) **Circumstances of the collision** including for example primary collision type and information in relation to vehicle and road user actions.
- h) **Relevant information** to enable the understanding of how each of the vehicles and persons involved in a collision are associated, such as which person was the driver of which vehicle where a multi vehicle collision has occurred, unique reference numbers.

Road Traffic Collision data which the RSA shall make available to Researchers under strict conditions of access and use includes the following categories:

- a) **Time of collision** limited to the day of week, month, year and time (grouped into time bands);
- b) **Location information** of the collision limited to co-ordinates and route type;
- c) **Collision severity** classification (fatal, serious, non-serious);
- d) Information on the persons involved in a collision, limited to age (grouped into age bands), gender, role;
- e) **Information on the vehicles** involved limited to the class of vehicle and vehicle type.

The Research Department is currently in the process of developing protocols for sharing data with Researchers and once this process has been finalised, further information will be published on www.rsa.ie.