

Road Traffic Collision Definitions

Casualty: A person killed or injured in a collision. Casualties are sub-divided into killed, seriously injured and slightly injured.

Collision*: Involves personal injury occurring on the public highway (including footways) in which at least one road vehicle or a vehicle in collision with a pedestrian is involved and which becomes known to the police within 30 days of its occurrence. One collision may give rise to several casualties. "Damage-only" collisions are not included.

Fatal collision: A collision in which at least one person is killed.

Injury collision: A collision involving human injury or death.

Killed: Human casualties who sustained injuries which caused death less than 30 days after the collision. Confirmed suicides are excluded.

KSI: Killed or seriously injured.

Serious collision: A collision in which at least one person is seriously injured but no person (other than a confirmed suicide) is killed.

Serious injury: An injury for which a person is detained in hospital as an "in-patient", or any of the following injuries whether or not they are detained in hospital: fractures, concussion, internal injuries, crushing, burns (excluding friction burns), severe cuts, severe general shock requiring medical treatment and injuries causing death 30 or more days after the collision. An injured casualty is recorded as seriously or slightly injured by the police on the basis of information available within a short time of the collision. This generally will not reflect the results of a medical examination, but may be influenced according to whether the casualty is hospitalised or not. Hospitalisation procedures will vary regionally.

Severity:

- Of a collision: the severity of the most severely injured casualty (either fatal, serious or slight).
- Of a casualty: killed, seriously injured or slightly injured.

Slight collision: A collision in which at least one person is slightly injured but no person is killed or seriously injured.

Slight injury: An injury of a minor character such as a sprain (including neck whiplash injury), bruise or cut which are not judged to be severe, or slight shock requiring roadside attention. This definition includes injuries not requiring medical treatment.

* The term 'collision' is used throughout. This should not be taken as the Council's view of the relative merits of the terms 'accident', 'collision', 'crash' or any other term.

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