

Kate McIntyre
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Ref: OIA 74698

07 MAY 2019

Dear Ms McIntyre

Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your email dated 07 April 2019 in which you have requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. The total number of people who are currently serving life sentences in New Zealand prisons.*
- 2. The total number of people who have been sentenced to a life sentence but have been released from prison.*
- 3. The total number of life sentences handed down per annum, as far back as records permit. Please break this down further by ethnicity and gender.*

Information relating to questions one and two of your request is not held by the Ministry of Justice but is believed to be held by the Department of Corrections. In these circumstances, questions one and two have been transferred to the Department of Corrections under section 14 of the Act. To address your third question, the table below provides you with the number of people who received life imprisonment sentences each year, by ethnicity, with a date range of 1980 to 2018. Table two provides you with the number of people who received life imprisonment sentences each year, by gender, with a date range of 1980 to 2018.

If you require any clarification on the information contained in this response please contact Julia Goode, Team Leader, Media and External Relations, by calling (04) 918 8836 or emailing media@justice.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. You can contact the Ombudsman by writing to PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143; calling 0800 802 602; or emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Andrea King
Group Manager, Senior Courts

Table 1: Number of People who received life imprisonment sentences each year, by ethnicity, for 1980 - 2018

Ethnicity	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
European	4	7	3	5	3	5	17	13	9	6	17	8	18	8	10	12	18	15	7	12
Maori	3	6	0	9	6	8	11	19	13	12	14	7	12	8	9	7	10	16	12	9
Pacific Peoples	0	2	1	2	0	1	5	2	6	2	2	5	4	2	1	5	1	5	1	3
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	5	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7	15	4	16	9	14	33	28	20	39	23	35	35	25	21	24	29	37	25	24

Ethnicity	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
European	8	9	13	8	5	8	7	11	12	8	18	12	9	10	11	12	7	6	7	
Maori	15	9	12	7	7	8	10	12	8	14	23	7	10	12	14	9	10	11	12	
Pacific Peoples	1	0	4	2	6	3	5	4	6	3	4	2	2	2	5	7	2	2	0	4
Other	5	0	0	2	3	0	1	3	5	3	1	4	2	4	1	5	5	1	3	
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	
Total	29	18	29	19	21	19	23	30	32	29	46	26	23	32	33	28	25	18	26	

Notes for Table 1:

- This information is based on the Courts Case Management System data which was extracted in April 2019.
- This data counts a person once per calendar year for their most serious convicted charge.
- Ethnicity information originates from Police.

Table 2: Number of people who received life imprisonment sentences each year, by gender, for 1980 - 2018

Gender	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Female	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	0
Male	7	15	4	13	8	13	32	34	25	19	32	23	32	23	19	22	28	35	23	24
Total	7	15	4	16	9	14	33	35	28	20	33	23	35	25	21	24	29	37	25	24

Gender	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Female	5	1	4	2	0	2	0	3	2	2	3	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	4
Male	24	17	25	17	21	17	23	27	30	27	43	25	21	29	29	28	24	16	22
Total	29	18	29	19	21	19	23	30	32	29	46	26	23	32	33	28	25	18	26

Notes for Table 2:

- This information is based on the Courts Case Management System data which was extracted in April 2019.
- This data counts a person once per calendar year for their most serious convicted charge.
- Gender information originates from Police.