



11 Nov 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-28300

Ti Lamusse
Email: fyi-request-10321-4dc014ec@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ti

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 16 May 2019. You asked:

Please provide me with the snapshot population of all NZ police cells on the final day of each quarter, as far back as records permit. In other words, please provide me with the number of people in all NZ police cells facilities on March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 of each year, as far back as records permit.

Please break this down further by ethnicity and gender of the population.

You received a response on 11 June advising that your request was refused because “In order to provide the information for this request, a manual search of each day’s custody notes would need to be undertaken in each Police District.” I understand you have made a complaint to the Ombudsman.

I apologise for this previous response as it was incorrect. While a manual search can be performed, Police does have access to reporting tools that can facilitate much easier collation of such data, although it is still not a ‘one click’ job. The request was assigned to a team that does not normally deal with OIA requests about custody and this is why the incorrect advice was given.

Please see below a response to your original request.

Police began recording custodies in a central computer system as a pilot in November 2008, and this was rolled out nationally by December 2010. Because of this, the data for 31 December 2008, 31 March 2009, 30 June 2009, 31 December 2009, 31 March 2010, 30 June 2010, and 30 September 2010 may not be representative of these days in other years. As per your phone conversation with a member of my team on 14 October 2019, you advised that you need this information for a specific reason and you realise that the snapshot numbers are not indicative of trends as the day of the week for the same date changes year on year.

Police National Headquarters

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The information is provided in the attached spreadsheet. The provided count is of custodies rather than of unique people because the same person could be in custody multiple times. The numbers relate to all types of detentions in Police custody, not just arrests (for example, it may include detainees held for immigration reasons or those who are remanded in Corrections custody).

Yours sincerely



Andrew Sissons
Superintendent
National Manager: Response & Operations

