

24 OCT 2019

Shane Howearth  
[fyi-request-11255-d2af144d@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-11255-d2af144d@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Howearth

**Official Information Act 1982 request**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 19 September 2019 for information regarding littering convictions. On 30 September 2019, the Ministry of Justice sought clarification of your request. You confirmed that you were seeking the following:

*How many littering convictions there have been, broken down by region, financial year, the age/gender/ethnicity of the offenders, and, if possible, the seriousness of the offence.*

In response to your requests, please refer to Tables 1a, 1b and 2, attached. Table 1a provides you with the number of convicted charges under the Litter Act 1979, by offence, for the financial years 2003/04 - 2018/19. Table 1b provides you with the number of convicted charges under the Litter Act 1979, by Justice Service Area, for the financial years 2003/04 - 2018/19. Table 2 provides you with the number of people convicted under the Litter Act 1979, by gender, ethnicity, and age, for the financial years 2003/04 - 2018/19.

We have provided the data by Justice Service Areas, which are geographical groupings of individual court locations for administrative purposes. Please refer to Appendix A attached, for a breakdown of these areas.

In your request you have also asked for information on the seriousness of the offences. Charges under the Litter Act 1979 are either Category 1 or Category 2 offences. Category 1 offences are non-imprisonable and have a maximum penalty of a fine only, whereas Category 2 offences have a maximum imprisonment sentence of 2 years. There are no higher offences for littering.

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response, please contact Julia Goode, Team Leader, Media and External Relations, by calling (04) 918 8836 or 021 636 416; or emailing [media@justice.govt.nz](mailto:media@justice.govt.nz)

I trust that this information assists.

Yours sincerely



Jacquelyn Shannon  
Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

Ref: 78176

Table 1a: Number of convicted charges under the Litter Act 1979, by offence, for the financial years 2003/04 - 2018/19

Seriousness	Offence	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Category 1	Deposits/Leave Litter Private Place No Consent	4	4	1	3	4	3	3	5	1	1	0	2	1	2	3	2
	Deposits/Leave Litter Public Place	17	13	14	22	34	30	23	14	4	10	4	2	2	1	4	7
	Other Littering Under Litter Act	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Person Depositing Litter (Not Dangerous) In A Public Place	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Person Leaving Litter (Not Dangerous) In A Public Place	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Category 2	Deposits/Leave Dangerous Litter (Individual)	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Deposits/Leave Dangerous Litter Private Place No Consent	3	7	4	5	5	1	2	1	4	2	1	3	0	1	0	1
	Deposits/Leave Dangerous Litter Public Place	53	34	37	48	41	52	20	24	27	14	9	5	2	1	6	2
	Other Litter Under Specific Statutes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Person Depositing Dangerous Litter In A Public Place	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Person Deposits Dangerous Litter (Oil) In A Public Place	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Wilfully Break Glass Private Place No Consent	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Wilfully Break Glass Public Place	35	21	26	32	21	16	4	4	5	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
	Wilfully Breaks Glass Or Bottle In A Public Place	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>123</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>

Notes:

- This data consists of convicted charges by year of outcome for offences under the Litter Act 1979.
- Category 1 offences are non-imprisonable. Category 2 offences have a maximum imprisonment sentence of 2 years. There were no Category 3 or higher offences for littering.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



Table 1b: Number of convicted charges under the Litter Act 1979, by Justice Service Area, for the financial years 2003/04 - 2018/19

Justice Service Area	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Taitokerau	6	7	1	5	6	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Waitemata	3	4	0	4	18	4	2	1	1	13	0	1	0	0	0	1
Auckland	4	4	7	7	5	9	0	3	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
South Auckland	9	3	5	1	3	6	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2
Waikato	4	2	5	2	1	8	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bay of Plenty	14	5	10	11	4	0	4	4	4	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Wairariki	6	10	2	5	3	2	3	2	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
East Coast	8	2	3	5	9	3	5	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	3	1
Taranaki/Whanganui	4	6	12	9	10	11	3	2	2	2	0	0	2	0	1	0
Manawatu/Wairarapa	4	4	7	4	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	4	2	0	4	2
Northern Wellington	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Wellington	3	0	1	1	0	1	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast	11	8	7	9	11	10	5	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
Canterbury	7	6	2	5	4	15	3	4	1	5	3	1	0	1	2	0
Otago	14	14	8	24	19	14	12	4	11	4	1	0	0	1	0	0
Southland	24	12	12	19	11	14	5	18	7	3	1	1	0	1	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>

Notes:

- This data consists of convicted charges by year of outcome for offences under the Litter Act 1979.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Table 2: Number of people convicted under the Litter Act 1979, by gender, ethnicity, and age, for the financial years 2003/04 - 2018/19

Demographic	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
<b>Total</b>	119	88	84	110	100	100	50	49	38	25	14	12	5	5	11	12
<i>Gender</i>																
Female	8	9	8	6	16	18	7	7	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	3
Male	111	79	75	104	84	82	43	41	36	22	14	12	4	4	11	9
Organisation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Ethnicity</i>																
European	73	50	52	64	55	59	31	34	26	15	8	6	2	3	2	4
Māori	42	25	27	33	38	38	18	11	14	3	7	5	1	2	5	3
Pacific Peoples	3	5	6	7	6	8	1	4	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0
Asian	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other	4	6	3	6	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	2	5	5	9	8	2	3	1	0	7	0	1	2	0	3	4
<i>Age group (years)</i>																
19 years and under	56	32	40	45	37	40	22	21	13	6	1	4	0	3	0	2
20 - 24	42	28	18	33	27	38	13	15	17	5	5	4	0	0	2	2
25 - 29	8	7	5	11	13	7	5	6	3	2	2	1	0	0	1	3
30 - 34	5	8	8	5	6	3	2	2	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	1
35 - 39	3	5	5	4	5	6	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	2	0
40 - 44	2	3	2	3	5	2	4	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	3	0
45 - 49	1	1	2	2	4	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
50 - 54	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
55 - 59	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
60 - 64	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
65 years and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Notes:

- This data counts a person once per financial year of outcome. Age is the person's age at the offence date of their most serious littering conviction each year.
- 'Multiple ethnicity' information is used in this table. This means for each ethnicity a person is counted once per financial year (eg they may be counted in both European and Māori). As some people have multiple recorded ethnicities this will result in the sum of ethnicities being greater than the total number of people each year.
- This data consists of people convicted for offences under the Litter Act 1979.



Appendix A: List of New Zealand Courts, by Justice Service Area

Justice Service Area	Court Location	Justice Service Area	Court Location
Taitokerau	Dargaville	Taranaki/Whanganui	Hawera
	Kaikohe		Marton
	Kaitaia		New Plymouth
	Whangarei		Taihape
Waitemata	North Shore		Whanganui
	Waitakere		Manawatu/Wairarapa
Auckland	Auckland	Levin	
	South Auckland	Manukau	
Papakura		Palmerston North	
Waikato	Pukekohe	Northern Wellington	Hutt Valley
	Hamilton		Porirua
	Huntly	Wellington	Chatham Islands
	Morrinsville		Court of Appeal
	Te Awamutu		Wellington
Bay of Plenty	Te Kuiti	Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast	Blenheim
	Opotiki		Greymouth
	Tauranga		Kaikoura
	Thames		Nelson
	Waihi	Westport	
	Whakatane	Canterbury	Ashburton
Wairariki	Rotorua		Christchurch
	Taumarunui	Otago	Dunedin
	Taupo		Oamaru
	Tokoroa		Timaru
East Coast	Gisborne	Southland	Alexandra
	Hastings		Gore
	Napier		Invercargill
	Ruatoria		Queenstown
	Waipukurau		
	Wairoa		