

15 November 2019

Win Walker

[fyi-request-11361-94865832@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-11361-94865832@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Our reference: IR-01-19- 27122

Dear Win Walker

I refer to your email request of 2 October 2019 which requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) information around the number of incidents where criminals pointed firearms at Police Officer. Specifically you requested:

*"...recently police union representative Chris Cahill claimed that in the last 6 months there had been 173 incidents of criminals pointing firearms at police. This figure appears to be exaggerated by what Mr Cahill defines as a firearm. I believe his definition is not supported by the arms act distorting all truth about the discussion. Please provide the make and model of each firearm used in every police incident for the last 6 months to explore the credibility of Mr Cahill's claim."*

I have considered your request and my response is as follows.

The figures I believe you may potentially be referring to are those highlighted in the media on 30 September 2019 as, "...179 incidents where criminals have pointed a gun at either an officer or a member of the public".

These figures were recorded by Police in the Gun Safe system nationwide between 1 March 2019 and 1 August 2019. However, as of 22 October 2019 the number of incidents occurring where criminals have pointed a gun at either an officer or a member of the public has been revised down to 178.

The data is frequently reviewed and every effort is made to correct any identified data-entry errors or remove duplication, however inaccuracies may still exist.

Therefore, it is important to note that the interpretations and conclusions drawn in this response are made on the balance of probability on information available at the time of preparation. As such, these figures may not be consistent with previous or future reports. Equally, the information contained herein is not evidence and is intended to provide a basis for further investigation only.

*"...Please provide the make and model of each firearm used in every police incident for the last 6 months to explore the credibility of Mr Cahill's claim."*

At present, the Gun Safe database does not capture this information broken down in the detail you require. The make and model are not fields we can extract and the data needed to create this information is potentially recorded within free text or structured text fields, and it cannot be readily retrieved. In order to create this information, we would need to manually review each of the 178 incident reports and cross reference that data (if in fact, that data is contained within the incident reports). It is of note, that for some incidents, there was evidence that a firearm was involved, however the firearm is yet to be located.

We are, therefore refusing these particular parts of your request pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982, in that the information you are requested cannot be

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#### **Police National Headquarters**

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made available without substantial collation or research. You do however, have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.

The Gun Safe database is relatively new and it will continue to evolve over time as improvements are identified, we will endeavour to take into consideration the items you have raised when developing it further in the future.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you have a right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982 to ask the Office of the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of my decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Superintendent Andrew Sissons  
**National Manager, Response and Operations**