

10 December 2019

C114698

Lance O'Riley
fyi-request-11520-34d77268@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr O'Riley

Thank you for your email of 23 October 2019, requesting statistics regarding prisoners incarcerated for possession and cultivation of marijuana. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You have requested:

- 1) *For each calendar year since 2000 how many people have served a sentence for possession of Marijuana.*
 - 1a) *of these, what was the average time served.*
 - 1b) *of these, what was the longest sentence length.*

- 2) *For each calendar year since 2000 how many people have served a sentence for possession of Marijuana, where possession of Marijuana was the lead offence*
 - 2a) *of these, what was the average time served.*
 - 2b) *of these, what was the longest sentence length.*

- 3) *For each calendar year since 2000 how many people have served a sentence for cultivation of Marijuana.*
 - 3a) *of these, what was the average time served.*
 - 3b) *of these, what was the longest sentence length.*

- 4) *For each calendar year since 2000 how many people have served a sentence for cultivation of Marijuana, where cultivation of Marijuana was the lead offence*
 - 4a) *of these, what was the average time served.*
 - 4b) *of these, what was the longest sentence length.*

- 5) *For each calendar year since 2000 how many people have served a sentence for sale/supply of Marijuana.*
 - 5a) *of these, what was the average time served.*
 - 5b) *of these, what was the longest sentence length.*

6) *For each calendar year since 2000 how many people have served a sentence for sale/supply of Marijuana, where sale/supply of Marijuana was the lead offence*

6a) *of these, what was the average time served.*

6b) *of these, what was the longest sentence length.*

Please include anyone on remand in these statistics but provide this as a separate figure.

Please also provide the information broken down by race/ethnicity and gender.

Please find attached as Appendix One, statistics as requested.

Please note:

- Statistics are based on first time releases from custodial sentences for each calendar year. A small number of offenders have more than one release per year.
- Statistics for questions 1a, 1b, 3a, 3b, 5a, 5b are interpreted as aggregate sentences with only those particular marijuana offence types.
- Average time served relates to the whole sentence managed by Corrections. This may include other sentences being served cumulatively and includes any attributed remand days.
- Longest sentence length relates to the lead offence and does not include remand days.
- Possession of marijuana has a maximum sentence of three months. Sentences for possession of marijuana recorded as over three months are not included.
- Figures for sentence length and time served are recorded in days.
- All ethnicity information is self-reported by prisoners upon their reception. Prisoners are asked to declare which ethnicities they identify with, but this is not validated or checked by Corrections. Prisoners are able to identify with multiple ethnicities. The information provided is based on their primary ethnicity.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with Corrections. Alternatively you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi nui,



PP

Rachel Leota
National Commissioner