

12 May 2020

Daniel Farrell

[fyi-request-12613-ba132b7d@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12613-ba132b7d@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Farrell,

Thank you for your email of 13 April 2020 requesting information regarding guilty pleas to criminal cases. Your request is being managed in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982. Your request is set out below:

- "1. For each year from 2015-2019 inclusive, how many defendants pled guilty to charges brought against them, and what percentage of total cases does this equate to?  
2. Of those defendants, how many were self-represented?  
3. Does the Ministry obtain socio-economic demographic information on defendants in criminal cases? If it does:  
a) What was the breakdown by socio-economic group for those who self-represented?  
b) What was the breakdown by socio-economic group for those who pled guilty?  
c) What was the breakdown by socio-economic group for those who both self-represented and pled guilty? "*

The Ministry is currently dealing with issues relating to COVID-19 and assisting with the wider government response. This means that the Ministry cannot do some work as quickly as it usually would.

We need to consult other people on your request, and we cannot do this within the original timeframe. Therefore, we are extending the time limit to respond to your request to 22 May 2020 under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act.

Please be assured that we will provide you with a response earlier than the new due date if circumstances permit. We are grateful for your patience and understanding in these unprecedented times.

If you require any further information, please contact Jerram Watts, Team Leader Media and External Relations (acting), on 027 291 3518, or email [media@justice.govt.nz](mailto:media@justice.govt.nz).

You have the right to complain to the Ombudsman about the Ministry extending the time to respond to your request.

The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by using their online complaints form, which can be found here: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/get-help-public/make-complaint-members-public](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/get-help-public/make-complaint-members-public)

Yours sincerely



Jacquelyn Shannon

Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

Ref: 81414