

13 July 2020

Our Reference: IR-01-20-15291

David Farrar  
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Dear David

I am writing in response to the email you submitted 3 June 2020. Your request has been considered pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982. Specifically you requested:

1. *The number of Police killed (in the course of their duties) since 1990, and a breakdown by ethnicity of their killers*
2. *For each year from 2010 to 2019 how many times a Police officer was assaulted in the course of their duties, and a breakdown by ethnicity for each year of those who committed the assault*

In response to your first question, the number of Police killed in the line of duty is 8. The breakdown of the offenders ethnicity is as follows; 3 Maori, 2 European, 2 unknown and 1 Pacific Islander.

To answer your second question, I have provided a list of the 11 offence codes that specifically relate to assault on a police officer. These are listed below:

- 1481 - Use Firearm Against Law Enforcement Officer - Crimes Act 1961 Section 198A(1)
- 1482 - Use Firearm To Resist Arrest/Detention - Crimes Act 1961 Section 198A(1)(b)
- 1551 - Assault Police (Crimes Act) Firearm - Crimes Act 1961 Section 192(2)
- 1552 - Assault Police (Crimes Act) Other Weapon - Crimes Act 1961 Section 192(2)
- 1553 - Assault Police (Crimes Act) Manually - Crimes Act 1961 Section 192(2)
- 1554 - Assault Police (Crimes Act) Stabbing/Cutting Weapon - Crimes Act 1961 Section 192(2)
- 1559 - Other Assault Police (Crimes Act) - Crimes Act 1961 Section 192(2)
- 1611 - Assaults Police (Firearm) - Summary Offences Act 1981 Sections 9 and 10
- 1612 - Assaults Police (Other Weapon) - Summary Offences Act 1981 Sections 9 and 10

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## Police National Headquarters

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- 1613 - Assaults Police (Manually) - Summary Offences Act 1981 Sections 9 and 10
- 1616 - Assaults Police (Stabbing/Cutting Weapon) - Summary Offences Act 1981 Sections 9 and 10
- 1619 - Other Assault Police - Summary Offences Act 1981 Sections 9 and 10

Table 1 provides the number of occurrences where at least one such offence was recorded (multiple offences can be recorded in one occurrence).

**Table 1: Number of occurrences where a Police officer has been assaulted**

Occurrence Year	Occurrences with offence of assault on police
2010	1,928
2011	1,751
2012	1,624
2013	1,448
2014	1,434
2015	1,523
2016	1,520
2017	1,500
2018	1,440
2019	1,628
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,796</b>

In addition to the offence codes listed in Table 1, there are other offences that may not specifically mention a police officer, but could still be used to charge an offender in a similar situation. For example, an offence of “wound with intent to cause grievous bodily harm” could be used and it does not mention a police officer specifically. The decision about which offence code to use in a given case is made based on known evidence and circumstances of each case, with the consideration of the Solicitor-General guidelines.

Where an offender was identified and proceeded against, their ethnicities are shown in Table 2, which is a subset of Table 1. Not all offences would have had an offender identified, and some may have had multiple offenders, therefore a unique total is provided. Keep in mind, this is still a count of occurrences, not individual people. Table 2 shows a count of occurrences which involved at least one offender of the given ethnicity.

**Table 2: Count of occurrences which involved at least one offender of the given ethnicity**

Occurrence Year \ Ethnicity	Asian	European	Maori	Middle Eastern/ Latin American/ African	Pacific Peoples	Unknown	Unique Total
<b>2010</b>	26	786	908	16	180	6	1,907
<b>2011</b>	24	700	838	15	154	6	1,732
<b>2012</b>	31	692	724	17	141	6	1,603
<b>2013</b>	17	550	720	23	126	1	1,427
<b>2014</b>	21	553	703	15	135	4	1,423
<b>2015</b>	29	587	736	16	144	10	1,510
<b>2016</b>	20	564	768	11	146	5	1,502
<b>2017</b>	25	526	788	24	127	3	1,478
<b>2018</b>	16	514	757	12	123	6	1,421
<b>2019</b>	31	562	819	16	148	10	1,577
<b>Unique Total</b>	240	6,034	7,761	165	1,424	57	15,580

I trust you are satisfied with my response to your request. If not, 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



Inspector Nicholas Brown  
**Acting National Manager: Response & Operations**

