

29 April 2021

Our Reference: IR-01-21-2740

Connor Wright
fyi-request-14561-915e9d7c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Connor

I am writing in response to the email you submitted on 28 January 2021. Your request has been considered pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Specifically, you requested:

For the period 01 December 2020 to 18 January 2021 (inclusive):

1. I request a breakdown of all arrests made by police.

Please ensure to include:

- The date the arrest was made.*
 - The time the arrest was made.*
 - The specific offence which led to the arrest being made.*
 - The age of the individual arrested.*
 - The ethnicity of the individual arrested.*
 - The gender of the individual arrested*
 - The number of Police Officers present when the arrest was made.*
 - The age, ethnicity, and gender of the Officers present when the arrest was made.*
 - The years of experience of each of the officer's present.*
 - The latitude and longitude coordinates where the arrest was made.*
 - Whether any Police dogs, tasers, pepper spray, or any firearms were used to effect the arrest.*
 - An anonymised ID number assigned to each officer (this does not need to be any internally recognised number, it can simply be assigned as Officer #001 to Officer #N.*
- For all age-based information requested, I am happy for 5 year age bands to be used should Police be unwilling to provide exact data.*

Your request has been interpreted as instances of people taken into Police custody nationally between 1 Dec 2020 and 18 Jan 2021 (inclusive).

As your request asks about arrests, only Police initiated custody occurrences were considered for this response (ie, it does not include those custody occurrences that were held for other agencies, such as Immigration, Oranga Tamariki, Corrections).

Police National Headquarters

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As your request mentions offences that led to the arrest, only those custody occurrences that have an offence code have been included (ie, it does not include those custody occurrences that had no offences, such as holding someone out of concern for their mental health, or for detoxification, or for bail breach). During this time, there were 7,231 such custody occurrences.

Police does not record coordinates of where an arrest is made, how many staff are present at an arrest, and their details for each arrest. These portions of your request are refused in accordance with section 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held, and I have no grounds to believe the information is held by another agency. Consequently, the demographics of the arresting officers also cannot be provided.

Summary data of the demographics of detainees is provided below. The seven tables provide you with the following information relating to individuals taken into Police custody between 1 December 2020 and 18 January 2021: their gender, ethnicity and age. The tables also provide a breakdown of the offence categories, the district where the individual was initially taken into custody, and the date and time when the individual entered Police custody.

The particulars of the of each custody (such date, time, offence, and demographics of the detainee for each individual record) cannot be provided in the format requested as it would make some people identifiable. The format of your request is withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Your request regarding “whether any Police dogs, tasers, pepper spray, or any firearms were used to effect the arrest” is answered below Table 7.

Table 1. Gender

Gender	Custodies between 1 Dec 2020 and 18 Jan 2021
Female	1,284
Male	5,937
Unknown	10

Please note with regard to the ethnicity data provided below, the National Recording Standard (NRS) is the overarching recording policy for Police.

The NRS describes ethnicity as an attribute of a person, instructing staff to select ethnicity by recording the option which an individual identifies with most strongly. The NRS states that ethnicity is used for statistical reporting and intelligence trends for victims and offenders. However, there are some limitations to ethnicity recording such as only one ethnicity can be recorded and if someone identifies as something other than Asian, European, Indian, Latin American/Hispanic, Maori, Middle Eastern, Native African, or Pacific island; the ethnicity is recorded as ‘other’ or ‘unknown’. As such the ethnicity data provided below is subject to potential biases, especially where recording persons who identify with more than one heritage.

Table 2. Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Custodies between 1 Dec 2020 and 18 Jan 2021
ASIAN	215
EUROPEAN	2,466
MAORI	3,737
MIDDLE EASTERN/LATIN AMERICAN/AFRICAN	99
PACIFIC PEOPLES	637
UNKNOWN	77

Table 3. Age

Person Age at Time of Arrest	Custodies between 1 Dec 2020 and 18 Jan 2021
12	6
13	15
14	68
15	79
16	114
17	110
18	220
19	210
20	245
21	235
22	200
23	265
24	261

25	272
26	260
27	266
28	260
29	275
30	249
31	270
32	237
33	247
34	204
35	192
36	190
37	175
38	152
39	159
40	120
41	136
42	111
43	131
44	141
45	104
46	123
47	93
48	89
49	74
50	69
51	72

52	61
53	54
54	46
55	52
56	48
57	38
58	22
59	35
60	30
61	26
62	19
63	15
64	12
65	6
66	9
67	7
68	10
69	3
70	6
71	6
72	4
73	1
74	4
76	3
77	1
78	2
84	1

89	1
Unknown	10

Table 4. Offence Category. Note that a person may be taken into custody for multiple offences, so the sum of custodies by offence category will be greater than the unique total of custodies.

Custody Record Category Code & Description	Custodies between 1 Dec 2020 and 18 Jan 2021
1000 - VIOLENCE	2,830
2000 - SEXUAL	196
3000 - DRUGS & ANTISOCIAL	2,278
4000 - DISHONESTY	1,593
5000 - PROPERTY DAMAGE	701
6000 - PROPERTY ABUSE	572
7000 - ADMINISTRATIVE	459
TRAFFIC	763

Table 5. Initial Custody District. In some instances, people get taken into custody in one district and later get transferred to another district (within the same period of custody). For the purposes of this answer, only the initial district is used.

Initial Custody District	Custodies between 1 Dec 2020 and 18 Jan 2021
NORTHLAND	321
WAITEMATA	463
AUCKLAND CITY	545
COUNTIES/MANUKAU	606
WAIKATO	706
BAY OF PLENTY	944
CENTRAL	821