

19 May 2021

Our Reference: IR-01-21-12630

Mark Hanna
fyi-request-15207-f134e5c1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mark Hanna

I am writing in response to the request you submitted 19 April 2021. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Specifically, you requested:

“... TOR data for the 1 January - 31 December 2019 reporting period, in the same format as was released for the January-December 2018 reporting period (ref IR-01-20-34818).”

Tactical Options Reporting data

Please find the requested data in the attached spreadsheet. The records provided are derived from the Tactical Options Reporting database, which records the reportable use of force by Police (Tactical Options Reports, or TOR). Each row is one “TOR event”, which is the reportable use of one or more tactical options, by one officer, against one individual. Multiple TOR events can occur at one incident. The definition of reportable uses of force can be viewed in the Annual Tactical Options Research Reports available on the Police website: <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/tactical-options-research-reports>.

The data attached is for the 2019 calendar year. The data includes TORs which had completed the review process as of 31 March 2020, when data was extracted for the 2019 Annual Tactical Options Research Report. Efforts have been made to clean and correct any identified errors; however, inaccuracies may still exist. As such, the data may not be consistent with future reports.

Some columns have been removed from this dataset, based on previous consultation with the Ombudsman in response to your earlier request for 2018 TOR data. Please note that for some of the removed columns, the dataset retains an equivalent coded column that captures and categorises the original content without the risk of identification. The removed columns include:

- Columns with information that either directly identified individuals or contained free text fields which may have directly identified individuals (redacted under section 9(2)(a) of the Act): *Subject Ethnicity, Role, Relevant Factors, Subject Weapon, All subject behaviours, Communication: Subject Behaviour, HC-Restraints 1: Subject Behaviour, HC-Restraints 2: Subject Behaviour, HC-Restraints 3: Subject Behaviour, OC Spray 1: Subject Behaviour, OC Spray 2:*

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. www.police.govt.nz

Subject Behaviour, OC Spray 3: Subject Behaviour, Empty Hand 1: Subject Behaviour, Empty Hand 2: Subject Behaviour, Empty Hand 3: Subject Behaviour, Baton 1: Subject Behaviour, Dog 1: Subject Behaviour, Dog 2: Subject Behaviour, Taser 1: Subject Behaviour, Taser 2: Subject Behaviour, Taser 3: Subject Behaviour, Firearm 1: Subject Behaviour, Firearm 2: Subject Behaviour, Other 1: Subject Behaviour, Empty Hand 1: Technique, Empty Hand 2: Technique, Empty Hand 3: Technique, Taser 1: Reason No Warning, Taser 2: Reason No Warning, Taser 3: Reason No Warning, Incident Type, Most effective tactic, Subject Resolution, Staff Injury: Type, Staff Injury By Police: Actions, Staff Injury By Equipment, Staff Injury By Equipment: Failure, Staff Injury By Other

- Columns that were not identifying on their own, but in combination with data from other columns, increased the risk that the individuals involved may be identified (redacted under section 9(2)(a) of the Act). Removing these columns reduces the risk that individual persons can be identified, but this risk is not completely eliminated; Police requests that you consider the risk to the privacy of individuals who have had force used against them when deciding how you will use and distribute the attached data: *Incident ID, Duplicate check, Incident Date, Month, Incident Station, Area, District, Your Role, Workgroup (Recoded 2019), WORKGROUP - HEADING, Special Police groups, Reporter Name, Reporter QID, Reporter Rank, Reporter Position, Other Police QIDs, Subject, Subject DOB, Subject Age, CARD Event, CARD Event Recode*
- Columns that include information that would be likely to pose a risk to operational integrity and staff safety if it becomes public (redacted under sections 6(c) and 6(d) of the Act): *Taser 1: TaserCam Serial No, Taser 2: TaserCam Serial No, Taser 3: TaserCam Serial No, Staff Injury By Equipment: Failure, Hard armour plates (HAP): Used, Reflectorised jacket: Used, SRBA: Used, SRBA: Felt Safer, SRBA: Worked, SRBA: Why Not, SRBA: Negative*
- Columns which are blank or duplicate information from other columns (out of scope of request): *Status, Violence - working, Tactics Used (second – first column of this title is retained), Tactic 1, Tactic 2, Tactic 3, Tactic 4, Tactic 5, Tactic 6, Tactic 7, Tactic 8, Tactic 9, Tactic 10, Tactic 11, TOTAL Tactics Used, Communication: Tactic Location Description, HC-Restraints 1: Tactic Location Description, HC-Restraints 2: Tactic Location Description, HC-Restraints 3: Tactic Location Description, OC Spray 1: Tactic Location Description, OC Spray 2: Tactic Location Description, OC Spray 3: Tactic Location Description, Empty Hand 1: Tactic Location Description, Empty Hand 2: Tactic Location Description, Empty Hand 3: Tactic Location Description, Baton 1: Tactic Location Description, Baton 2: Tactic Location Description, Dog 1: Tactic Location Description, Dog 2: Tactic Location Description, Taser 1: Tactic Location Description, Taser 2: Tactic Location Description, Taser 3: Tactic Location Description, Firearm 1: Tactic Location Description, Firearm 2: Tactic Location Description, Other 1: Tactic Location Description, Other 2: Tactic Location Description*

The following points as described in my letter to you dated 25 February 2021 (IR-01-20-34818) regarding the 2018 dataset also apply to the 2019 dataset:

- Sums of some fields, such as subject injuries, will not match exactly with numbers reported in the 2019 Annual Report, as additional filtering has been applied to limit this only to relevant records. An additional fourth injury caused by “No PC - Handcuffs-Restraints” was also counted in the 2019 Annual Report subject injuries by cause. This is identifiable as the record with a Total Subject

Injuries of “4”. This brings the total for Subject Injury Cause of “No PC - Handcuffs-Restraints” to 33 as reported in the 2019 Annual Report.

- Ethnicity classifications are based on the Statistics New Zealand Statistical Standard for ethnicity (ETHNIC05 v2) with the priority order Māori, Pacific peoples, Asian, MELAA, European, Other/Unknown. Each subject's ethnicity is coded to only one category based on this priority order.
- “-“ and “0” values are equivalent.
- Definitions for columns “HC:Not reportable”, “HCwP&R Usage Count”, and “Charge Categories” are as provided in the previous response.

For the 2019 dataset, the following should also be noted:

- Fatality and shooting injury TORs have been included into the dataset (6 records). These TORs do not contain all the fields as in a standard TOR and are completed by a supervisor rather than the officer who used force. Therefore, not all fields will contain a value. The Highest PCA value of “GBH – not recorded” is a placeholder value added for analysis purposes and is not recorded on the TOR itself.

Police requests that if you publish this data in any form, you include the following proviso: *“Wholesale conversion of this data may lead to incorrect assumptions or misleading interpretation. To ensure data accuracy and integrity, Police recommends that members of the public access use of force data directly via the OIA process and/or through the Police Annual Tactical Options Report series, available at this link:*

<https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/tactical-options-research-reports.”>

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

Yours sincerely



Inspector Nicholas Brown
Acting Director: Capability, Frontline Capability
