

29 July 2021

Reference: IR-01-21-19005

Donna McMillan
fyi-request-15821-05b5da84@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms McMillan

I am writing in response to your email of 17 June 2021, which was made pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). You requested:

Requesting information and communications, between/ from the Police Commissioner, District Commanders, Area Commanders including the Police Minister with regard to decisions on funding and deployment of Police youth engagement officers in the community since March 2020 till present day.

Please provide statistics on how many Police youth engagement officers, community officers, and neighbourhood policing teams there are in New Zealand, and hours that these officers including youth engagement officers spend dedicated to working in their positions.

My response to your request is as below:

Requesting information and communications, between/ from the Police Commissioner, District Commanders, Area Commanders including the Police Minister with regard to decisions on funding and deployment of Police youth engagement officers in the community since March 2020 till present day.

Youth Engagement Officer positions were initially set up in July 2018 across the three Tamaki Makaurau police districts to work in the early intervention area; for children and young people who were first coming to Police notice through offending or family harm incidents. They work with children and young people whose offending is not dealt with through the Family Group Conference or Youth Court process. The interventions are holistically based, addressing the causes of offending, looking after the wellbeing of the child or young person, and working with whanau.

There has not been any correspondence with regard to decisions on funding and deployment of Police Youth Engagement officers in the community since March

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

2020. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under s 18(e) of the OIA, as the documentation alleged to contain this information does not exist.

Please provide statistics on how many Police youth engagement officers, community officers, and neighbourhood policing teams there are in New Zealand, and hours that these officers including youth engagement officers spend dedicated to working in their positions.

Below is a table broken down into Constabulary and Other Police Employees for the position types requested:

EMPLOYMENT GROUPING	POSITION TYPE	HEADCOUNT	FTE	WEEKLY HOURS
Constabulary	Community Officers	273	269.3	10772.7
	Neighbourhood Policing Team	55	54.4	2174.0
	School Community	97	90.4	3616.8
	Youth Aid	234	229.7	9189.0
	Youth Development	36	35.9	1436.0
	Youth Engagement	43	42.4	1696.0
Constabulary Total		738	722.1	28884.4
Other Police Employee	Community Officers	1	1.0	40.0
	Youth Aid	1	0.8	32.0
	Youth Development	24	22.6	902.0
	Youth Engagement	5	5.0	200.0
Other Police Employee Total		31	29.4	1174.0
Grand Total		769	751.5	30058.4

The Full Time Equivalent numbers are slightly less than the headcount to reflect staff who work less than full time in their role.

For clarity the Position Types are grouped based on the following criteria:

- All Community Constables, Community Policing, Community Relations staff are grouped into Community Officers.
- The Youth Engagement staff have all positions with Youth Engagement in their titles even though they have a job code of Youth Development or Youth Aid.
- The Youth Development staff have various titles that do not include Development in their name, but all are the remaining positions that has the Job Code of Youth Development.
- Youth Aid includes all of the Youth Aid Officer and Youth Aid Constables positions as well as any other positions with Youth in their name.

Youth Engagement officers are constabulary staff so can be redeployed to support police operations such as protests, emergency events and reassurance patrols.

You have the right, under s 28(3) of the OIA to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



Eric Tibbott
Director: Community Partnerships and Prevention
Iwi & Communities
