

02 August 2021

IR-01-21-22558

Will Inglis
fyi-request-16145-bc91a88a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Will

Request for information

Thank you for your request dated 21 July 2021 requesting information on attacks on Police officers. You requested:

1. *I am after data showing the number of violent incidents in which police were injured in the past four years. If possible, please provide a breakdown of this data by:*
 - a. *year*
 - b. *whether hospitalisation was required*
 - c. *whether a firearm was involved (not carried by the police)*
 - d. *whether another form of weapon was involved (e.g. a knife)*
2. *I realise you may not have all of this data readily available, so am happy to discuss other breakdowns that might be helpful.*

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) and I enclose the following information:

1. Data for parts a and b of your query comes from staff reports of injury caused by assault over the past four full calendar years:

	All Injuries	Injuries with Hospitalisation
2017	323	21
2018	353	15
2019	448	13
2020	412	23

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth St, Wellington
Telephone: 04 474 9499 www.police.govt.nz

Data for parts c and d of your query comes from Tactical Options Reports (TORs) over the past four full calendar years:

TOR events in which the subject was armed with a cutting/stabbing weapon, and the subject injured the staff member

	All Injuries	Injuries with Hospitalisation
2017	21	2
2018	25	1
2019	19	4
2020	32	2

A TOR 'event' is the reportable use of one or more tactical options by one officer, against one individual. Multiple TOR events can occur at one incident.

This data captures only incidents where a police officer used force. It does not capture incidents where a member of the public was armed with a cutting/stabbing weapon and injured a Police officer, but the officer did not use force. As such, it is likely the values underestimate the use of cutting/stabbing weapons against Police.

The figures provided are from a dynamic operational database and is subject to change as new information is recorded or updated. The values are the most accurate available at the time of analysis. Efforts have been made to clean and correct any identified data entry errors, but inaccuracies may still exist. As such, these figures may not be consistent with future reports.

2. Further information in relation to parts c and d of your query may be accessed via the publicly available statistics that New Zealand Police releases monthly at policedata.nz. Please read the instructions on the summary page on how to use these reports. The "Victimisations (police stations)" report will be the most useful. To access this data please do the following:
 - Go to policedata.nz and double click on the "Victimisations (police stations)" report.
 - From the "Victimisations (police stations)" report, select the tab labelled "District".
 - Select the time period you require by moving the sliding bar on "Year Month".
 - In the "Crime Type" chart, click on the "+" icon to expand the categories by hovering the cursor over the "Anzsoc Division" heading to show the "Anzsoc group". Click on the "+" again over the "Anzsoc group" to show the "Anzsoc subgroup".
 - Under the "Anzsoc Subgroup" heading, select/highlight "Assaults on Police (No Injury)" and "Assaults on Police (Physical Injury)".

- Under the "Weapons Used" filter, select a weapon of interest.
- The "Police Boundary" table and the "Trend" chart automatically updates when you highlight/select these specific categories to show the number of victimisations.
- Finally, you can download detailed information about these data using the download icon at the bottom of the page and selecting "Data".

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mel Aitken". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'A'.

Superintendent Mel Aitken
Director, Safer People