NEW ZEALAND
POLICE
Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa

10 December 2021   Reference: IR-01-21-29521

Mark Hanna
fyi-request-16973-f58e7535@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mark

I am writing in response to the email you submitted on 1 October 2021. Your request has been considered pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Specifically, you requested:

On five previous occasions (ref 16/11336, 16/7758/11, IR-01-18-5190, IR-01-20-34818, and IR-01-21-12630), NZ Police has released tactical options reporting (TOR) data under the Official Information Act for periods between 1 July 2016 and 31 December 2019.

The most recent TOR data released under the OIA, covering 1 January - 31 December 2019, was released in a spreadsheet format with some columns removed and some others recoded.

I understand that the decisions about which information to withhold and which information to recode were made in consultation with the Office of the Ombudsman, to reach a compromise that would satisfy the scope of my earlier request for TOR data covering 2018 in a way that was achievable by Police.

I understand that some cleaning of this data is typically done as part of the process of preparing the annual TOR summary reports. Though the summary report covering 2020 appears to have been delayed, with the report covering 2019 having been published in August 2020, I see that 2020 TOR data has been used to produce the report "Research into tactical options in the current policing environment".

I'm not sure why the TOR summary report covering 2020 has been delayed, but I expect the 2020 TOR data has likely been cleaned as part of the process of producing this other tactical options research report. I hope that means this data cleaning work wouldn't need to be pulled ahead of schedule in order to prepare the TOR data covering 2020 for release under the OIA.

Please release the following information:

1. TOR data for the 1 January - 31 December 2020 reporting period, in the same format as was released for the January-December 2019 reporting period (ref IR-01-21-12630).

Please also explain any relevant caveats that should be kept in mind when analysing this information.

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

Please provide all information, including the response letter, in an accessible, searchable format. Please provide the TOR data in a machine-readable format such as CSV or XLSX. I'd be happy if the XLSX format that has been used to release the data covering 2019 is used again.

Thank you for your email on 1 October 2021 where you said, S*orry, I've just noticed that I used the wrong name in my request for the recent report that I mentioned. "Research into tactical options in the current policing environment" is the name of the page on the NZ Police website where the report has been made publicly available, but the name of the report itself is "Appropriate Tactical Settings."*

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. 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 2020 calendar year as reported in the 2020 Tactical Options Research Report. Data was extracted for the 2020 Tactical Options Research Report on 3 May 2021. The final dataset was made up of 5385 TOR events that had completed the two-stage review process as of this date, as well as 10 TOR events reported to the TOR Fatalities and Shooting Injuries database. 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 (withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons).

  Columns: 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: 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, Other 2: 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 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. 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 (withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons).

  Columns: 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 poses a risk to operational integrity and staff safety if it becomes public (withheld pursuant to section 6(c) of the OIA as the making available of this information is likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law).

  Columns: 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 administrative only, blank, or duplicate information from other columns.

  Columns: Status, Violence - working, Tactics Used (duplicate column - the 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

The following points as described in the response sent to you on 25 February 2021 (reference IR-01-20-34818), regarding the 2018 dataset, also apply to the 2020 dataset:

- Sums of some fields, such as subject injuries, will not match exactly with numbers reported in the 2020 Annual Report, as additional filtering has been applied to limit information in the Annual Report to relevant records only.
- 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 2020 dataset, the following should also be noted:
- Fatality and Shooting Injury TORs have been included into the dataset (10 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 – death (assumed)' is a placeholder value added for analysis purposes and is not recorded on the TOR itself.

New Zealand 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.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to ask the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of my decision.

Yours sincerely

Inspector Jason Ross
Acting Director: Capability
Frontline Capability