

19 January 2022

Sebastian
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Tēnā koe Sebastian

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 2 December 2021, in which you asked for information regarding the National Gang List (NGL).

My response to each of your questions can be found below.

1. Is there a formal policy around data cleansing of the 'National Gang List'?

There is no formal policy. The NGL is updated every two months and was last updated in October 2021.

Individuals are added to the NGL following a validation process carried out by Police District and national intelligence staff. The following factors are taken into consideration when validating gang membership (patched or prospect) status:

- Intelligence from operations and search warrants
- An 'Intelligence noting' identifying an individual wearing a patch
- Visible evidence of members wearing a patch
- Certain prominent or significant gang 'patch' tattoos.

2. Are persons who appear in death records removed from the 'National Gang List'?

Individuals are removed from the NGL when intelligence is received indicating they have been de-patched or removed themselves from the gang, or they are deceased. Please note that the names of people who simply drift away from gang involvement are much less likely to be removed from the list due to the challenges of corroborating their exit.

The Gang Intelligence Centre (GIC) established the NGL in 2016 as a means for understanding the national gang picture in New Zealand. The NGL is comprised of

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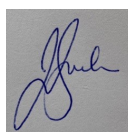
information held by the GIC agencies¹ about patched or prospect New Zealand Adult Gangs members and does not record gang associates or those who may be affiliated. The NGL is not an official statistic. It was created for intelligence purposes because it is important that government agencies understand gang membership. It helps agencies understand and maintain oversight of the gang environment, to enhance our understanding of the scale of social harm caused by gangs, and to support the identification of prevention and intervention opportunities.

The number of people on the NGL on its own is not an accurate reflection of the extent of gang membership in New Zealand, the extent of offending or harm caused by gangs or the scale of activity, criminality or violence perpetrated by organised crime in New Zealand. The number on the list was never intended to be an indicator at all, it is simply a collation of information that informs both investigative and prevention activity.

Please note that as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police proactively releases some information and documents that may be of interest to the public. Therefore, an anonymised version of this response may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Julia Smith
Manager Intelligence Fusion Teams
New Zealand Police

¹ New Zealand Police, Department of Corrections, Internal Affairs, Oranga Tamariki, Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, New Zealand Customs Service, Accident Compensation Corporation, Ministry of Social Development, Inland Revenue, and Kāinga Ora.