

30 March 2022

Jack Steel
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Dear Jack

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 22 February 2022, in which you asked for information regarding Police Armed Offenders Squads (AOS) and Special Tactics Groups (STG).

My response to each of your questions can be found below. Please note, all information requested regarding STG is refused pursuant to sections 6(a) and 6(c) of the OIA as the making available of the information requested is likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand and prejudice the maintenance of the law.

1. Number of deployments of the AOS and STG (separately) broken down per year going as far back as reasonably recorded. If possible please also include a breakdown of planned/unplanned operations.

This data is drawn from a dynamic operational database and is subject to change as new information is recorded or updated. Table 1 contains the number of AOS deployments between 1 July 2005 and 1 March 2022. AOS deployments is a count of AOS deployment reports. There may be multiple squads deployed to the same deployment.

Table 1. AOS deployments by calendar year, from 1 July 2005 – 1 March 2022

| <i>Calendar Year</i> | <i>Emergency</i> | <i>Pre-planned</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 2005^ | 205 | 156 | 361 |
| 2006 | 307 | 278 | 585 |
| 2007 | 371 | 261 | 632 |
| 2008 | 334 | 292 | 626 |
| 2009 | 443 | 478 | 921 |
| 2010 | 441 | 591 | 1032 |
| 2011 | 291 | 546 | 837 |
| 2012 | 268 | 473 | 741 |

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|-------|-----|------|------|
| 2013 | 242 | 487 | 729 |
| 2014 | 206 | 460 | 666 |
| 2015 | 224 | 496 | 720 |
| 2016 | 323 | 553 | 876 |
| 2017 | 275 | 640 | 915 |
| 2018 | 325 | 599 | 924 |
| 2019 | 364 | 695 | 1059 |
| 2020 | 349 | 860 | 1209 |
| 2021 | 365 | 1034 | 1399 |
| 2022* | 47 | 91 | 138 |

^ Begins July 2005

*As at 1 March 2022

2. The quantity of AOS squads and their locations, and the quantity of STG squads and their locations.

3. The number of members in each AOS squad per region, and the number of members in each STG squad per region.

ACTIVE AOS Members

| AOS Squad | Number of Members |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Tamaki | |
| Makaurau | 34 |
| Canterbury | 43 |
| Dunedin | 18 |
| Tairāwhiti | 10 |
| Hawkes Bay | 23 |
| Southland | 20 |
| Tasman | 22 |
| Northland | 19 |
| Manawatu | 16 |
| Rotorua | 14 |
| Taranaki | 16 |
| Tauranga | 17 |
| Waikato | 29 |
| Whanganui | 14 |
| Wellington | 34 |
| West Coast | 6 |
| Total | 335 |

4. The breakdown of number of male/female members of the AOS and STG (separately).

ACTIVE AOS Members

| Gender | Count |
|---------------|--------------|
| Female | 18 |
| Male | 317 |
| Total | 335 |

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



Superintendent Andrew Sissons

Director: Tactical Operations
New Zealand Police
