

9 May 2023

Mark Hanna  
fyi-request-20872-e7783cbe@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mark

### ***Request for information***

In my original response to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request (IR-01-22-31922), I advised that the dataset you requested could be made available to you once it is ready. The dataset is now available to be released. Your original question followed by caveats to consider when reading the dataset is below.

*Please release the following information:*

*1. TOR data for the 1 January - 31 December 2021 reporting period, in the same format as was released for the January - December 2020 reporting period (ref IR-01-21-29521).*

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

*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 XLSB format that has been used to release the data covering 2020 is used again.*

Please find the requested data in the attached spreadsheet. As mentioned in earlier correspondence, the 2021 Tactical Options data is derived from multiple databases. From January to October, tactical option use was reported to the Tactical Options Reporting database, and from November onwards, tactical option use has been reported to the new Tactical Database. The Tactical Database is a relational database, and the structure of the data has changed from previous years. Instead of one spreadsheet with each row comprising one TOR event, the data is now stored across multiple related tables. In addition, a small number of records come from the Fatalities and Shooting Injuries TOR database.

#### *Data Overview*

In the REPORT table, each row comprises one Tactical Options Report, made by one staff member, but potentially involving multiple subjects. On the SUBJECT\_PERSON

---

### **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](http://www.police.govt.nz)

table, each row comprises one subject; as such, each row on this table also represents 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 TACTIC table comprises one row per tactical option used, the WEAPON table one row per subject weapon, and the INJURY\_STAFF and INJURY\_SUBJECT tables, one row per injury sustained (but note that prior to November 2021, staff could only record whether or not they were injured, not multiple injuries).

Data can be linked across tables using either the Subject ID field (for subject level linkage) or the Reference Number field (for report level linkage).

### *2021 Data Summary*

The data attached is for the 2021 calendar year as reported in the 2021 Tactical Options Research Report. Data was extracted for the 2021 Tactical Options Research Report on 2 December 2022. The final dataset was made up of 5693 TOR events that had completed the two-stage review process as of this date, as well as 13 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 previous requests TOR data. Due to the database changeover, the data fields/columns are different from previous years. We have followed the intent of the agreement with the Ombudsman in determining which data requires removal. A summary of the removed columns follows below.

#### *1. Columns containing free text – section 9(2)(a) and 6(c) of the OIA*

The following columns allow free text, which may contain information that may have to be removed under section 9(2)(a) and 6(c) of the OIA. The making available of the information would allow the subjects to be identified, compromising their privacy and potentially prejudicing their right to a fair trial (should a trial occur), due to information relating to any alleged offending entering the public domain.

These columns have been removed in their entirety due to the significant time required to check and apply any required redactions.

Column name
ROLE AT INCIDENT OTHER
GROUPS ATTENDING OTHER
MENTAL STATE OTHER
OTHER WEAPON TYPE
REASON NO WARNING
FIREARM TYPE OTHER
BEHAVIOUR*

\*Note that 11 columns are included that indicate whether each of 11 behaviours occurred – further information is provided below.

---

## 2. Columns containing identifying information – section 9(2)(a) and 6(c) of the OIA

Some of these columns directly identify the persons involved. Others are not independently identifying, but in combination with data from other columns, increase the risk the persons involved may be identified. This may compromise their privacy and prejudice their right to a fair trial, due to information relating to any alleged offending entering the public domain.

Column name
REPORT ID
REPORT NUMBER
ADDRESS
SUBURB
CITY
STATION CODE
GEO NORTHING
GEO EASTING
COMPLETED TS
SUBMITTED TS
CARD EVENT NO
INCIDENT Date
INCIDENT Time
REPORTER QID
REPORTER RANK
REPORTER POSITION
REPORTER STATION CODE
GROUPS ATTENDING
ROLE AT INCIDENT
Recoded Role Categories
CREATED TS
NIA ID
FIRST NAME
FAMILY NAME
DATE OF BIRTH
DECEASED MISSING DESC
FIREARMS LICENSE
DLICNO
DATE OF DEATH
PRN
GANG MEMBERSHIP
AGE AT INCIDENT
INFO ALERT ID
DOG NAME
HANDCUFFS RESTRAINTS RESTRAINT CHAIR OPERATOR
HANDCUFFS RESTRAINTS RESTRAINT CHAIR SUPERVISOR
STAFF QID
CAUSED BY SUBJECT Number
CAUSED BY SUBJECT DESC

Removing these columns reduces the risk that individual persons can be identified, but this risk is not completely eliminated; NZ 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 (section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons).

---

3. Columns which contain information relating to operational security – removed under section 6(c) of the OIA.

The withheld columns contain information relating to Police staff equipment, including details about equipment, vulnerabilities, and tactical assets. Releasing this data publicly would be likely to compromise staff safety and Police’s operational capability.

Column name
TASER CAM SERIAL NUMBER
TASER SERIAL NUMBER
FEEL SAFE
SAFETY EQUIPMENT USED DESC

4. Columns which are only administrative, for calculation, blank, or duplicate information from other columns.

Column name	Explanation
SPONGE NR SHOTS HIT	Columns contains no data (currently not working)
SPONGE NR SHOTS MISS	
SUBJECT ACTION CODE	
TASER deployment rank	Calculation columns used to obtain values in column MAX TASER deployment label
MAX TASER deployment rank	
PCA rank	Calculation columns used to obtain values in column MAX PCA label
Max PCA Rank	
Firearm Deployment Rank	Calculation columns used to obtain values in column MAX Firearm deployment label
MAX Firearm Deployment Rank	
PERSON_ID	Information contained in this column is not meaningful in any way.

*Additional notes about included data fields:*

#### *Fatality and Shooting Injury TORs*

Fatality and Shooting Injury TORs have been included into the 2021 dataset (13 TOR events). 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 PCA\_CODE values of “GBH (assumed)” and “Not Recorded” are placeholder values added for analysis purposes and are not recorded on the TOR itself

#### *REPORT table*

- Column “NO\_OTHER\_OFFICER\_PRESENT” displays Y for a solo officer (Yes, there were no other officers present) and N for when multiple officers were present (No, there were not no other officers).
- Column “Source” refers to the database that the tactical option use was reported to. LN refers to the previous (Lotus Notes) Tactical Options Reporting database. TD refers to the current Tactical Database. FSI refers to the Fatalities and Shooting Injuries TOR database. Note that relevant Reference Numbers and IDs are also prefixed with LN or FSI.

### *SUBJECT\_PERSON table*

- Column “CHARGES\_LAID\_ON\_SUBJECT” differs for records from the two datasets. Values from LN records give higher level categories, with codes only and no description, whereas values from the TD specify individual offence codes and provide text descriptions. All numbers can be grouped into broad offence code categories, as per the following list:

Category numbers	Category name
1000	Violence
2000	Sexual
3000	Drugs & Antisocial
4000	Dishonesty
5000	Property damage
6000	Property abuse
7000	Administrative/Justice
A-W Traffic	Traffic offences

- Columns CRIMES\_ACT, CRIMINAL\_INVESTIGATION\_ACT, and MENTAL\_HEALTH\_ACT refer to the legal justification for the use of force, and only contain values for TD records. Values from LN records have been migrated to the OTHER\_ACT column.
- Columns “ETHNICITY\_DESC” and “Ethnicity Group” use ethnicity terms and classifications based on the Statistics New Zealand Statistical Standard for ethnicity (ETHNIC05 v2.1.0) 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.
- Columns beginning with “Behav” refer to standardised subject behaviours that officers can select when reporting the tactical option use (1 = yes). Data from the Tactical Options Report database (LN) regarding subject behaviours is still undergoing migration; data migration and testing is a lengthy process requiring substantial staff resource. As such, subject behaviour data is not yet available for LN records, and all Behaviour columns are blank for these records. For TD records, the full text response selected by officers for each column are as follows:

Column name	Behaviour
Behav Threaten nonPolice	Threaten non-Police
Behav ThreatenPolice	Threaten Police
Behav Aggressive	Aggressive Demeanour
Behav Assault nonPolice	Physically assault non-Police
Behav Assault Police	Physically assault Police
Behav Obstructive	Non-compliant/obstructive
Behav SelfHarm	Self-harm
Behav VerbalAbuse	Verbally Abusive
Behav ThreatenSelfHarm	Threaten self-harm
Behav Spit	Spit blood/saliva at Police
Behav Evade	Evading/decamping

---

- Columns beginning with “MState” and “Actions” relate to the MENTAL\_STATE and ACTIONS\_TAKEN columns respectively (1 = yes). Full text of the selected categories can be seen in the two original columns.
- Column “History\_Weapons” indicates whether the subject has a known history of carrying weapons (1 = yes). However, this data was only obtained in LN and FSI forms and is not available for TD records.
- Columns beginning “Tactic” identify whether a given tactic was used against the subject (1 = yes). Note that Tactic.Handcuffs-Restraints-SpitHood also includes the use of Handcuffs/Plastic ties without pain compliance, which are typically excluded from analyses.
- Column “Total Injuries” counts the total number of injuries a subject sustained, that were caused by a tactical option (i.e. excluding “Other cause (not a Tactical Option)”).
- Column “Total Tactics” counts the total number of tactics used at the TOR event, excluding communication and Handcuffs/Plastic ties without pain compliance.

#### TACTIC table

- Column “Exclude HCnoPC” shows value “Exclude” for uses of Metal handcuffs or Plastic ties that were used without pain compliance, which are only a reportable use of force when they occur in the context of a TOR event with a reportable use of force. As such, most handcuffs use without pain compliance is not captured in the TOR database, and these tactics are excluded from analyses (see [2019 Tactical Options Report](#) for further information). All other tactic uses have value “Include” in this column.

NZ 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>.

Yours sincerely



**Inspector Jason Ross**  
Acting Director Capability

---