

09 DEC 2014

Nick Walker  
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Tēnā koe Mr Walker

### Official Information Act 1982 request

I am replying to your email of 23 October 2014 in which you have requested, under the Official Information Act 1982, information relating to drink driving statistics for the Wellington region.

You have requested and confirmed in your email of 24 October 2014, statistics regarding the number of people convicted for drink driving offences in the last two years in the following courts:

- Wellington
- Porirua
- Hutt Valley
- Masterton
- Levin

Your email on this date acknowledged that the Ministry of Justice is unable to provide information regarding the suburb that a convicted individual lives in, as this information is court record, which is excluded from the scope of the Official Information Act 1982 under sections 2(6)(a) and (b).

Your response, to an email from the Ministry of Justice on 28 October 2014 agreed to the request for a 20 day extension as a result of the volume of information requested.

The specific data you have requested for each court is:

- the number of people that exceeded breath or blood alcohol limits while driving
- the number of people convicted for drink driving
- the number of people convicted for drink driving that had previously been convicted of drink driving
- the average fine given to people convicted of drink driving
- the maximum fine given to a person convicted of drink driving
- the average number of hours of community service ordered to people convicted of drink driving
- the maximum number of hours of community service given to a person convicted of drink driving
- the average number of hours of supervision ordered to people convicted of drink driving
- the highest number of hours of supervision ordered to a person convicted of drink driving
- the number of people from each area that were jailed for drink driving
- the average length of jail terms given to people who were imprisoned for drink driving
- the longest jail term given to a person who was imprisoned for drink driving

The Ministry of Justice compiles statistical information on conviction and sentencing. Without searching every court record we cannot be sure of the classification of drink drive convictions. Courts are excluded from the scope of the Official Information Act 1982 under sections 2(6)(a) and (b).

Searching of court records is governed by the District Court Rules 2014. If you wish to pursue your request you will therefore need to apply to the relevant court registrar. I note that any decision relating to the release of a court record is a judicial decision.

In response to the remainder of your request, please find tables 1 to 7 attached.

Please note with the data:

- the offences counted for drink driving include exceeding the prescribed limit and other offences relating to driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs (eg causing injury/death). About 2% of convictions are in this latter category
- individuals are counted for their most serious drink driving offence per year. They can appear in the data more than once, but only appear once per year
- tables 2, 3, 4 and 6 count numbers of instances that specified sentences were imposed and cannot be directly compared with the number of people convicted
- this information is representative of a point in time and is subject to change
- I have provided data by financial year in order to provide you the most recent data available

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982. The Ombudsman may be contacted by writing to PO Box 10-152, Wellington.

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response to your Official Information Act request, please contact Antony Paltridge, Team Leader, Media and External Relations, at [Antony.Paltridge@justice.govt.nz](mailto:Antony.Paltridge@justice.govt.nz) or call (04) 918 8980 or 027 689 0667.

Heoi anō, nā



Tony Fisher  
**General Manager, District Courts**

Ref: 50831

**Table 1: Number of people convicted of a drink driving offence, per financial year, by court location**

Court location	Sentence	Year	
		2012/2013	2013/2014
Hutt Valley	Imprisonment	4	10
	Home Detention	5	10
	Community Detention	31	59
	Intensive Supervision	3	0
	Community work	33	125
	Supervision	6	17
	Monetary	95	246
	Deferment	0	1
	Other	21	29
	Levin	Imprisonment	7
Home Detention		9	10
Community Detention		32	8
Intensive Supervision		0	1
Community work		52	31
Supervision		11	5
Monetary		89	82
Other		2	1
Masterton		Imprisonment	4
	Home Detention	3	1
	Community Detention	19	13
	Intensive Supervision	1	2
	Community work	42	36
	Supervision	15	21
	Monetary	111	117
	Other	6	8
	Porirua	Imprisonment	15
Home Detention		7	6
Community Detention		61	42
Intensive Supervision		2	1
Community work		158	130
Supervision		56	25
Monetary		218	223
Other		13	4
Discharge		1	0
Wellington	Imprisonment	10	11
	Home Detention	12	4
	Community Detention	39	34
	Intensive Supervision	5	0
	Community work	86	86
	Supervision	22	19
	Monetary	353	323
	Other	21	6
	Discharge	1	0

**Table 2: Average and maximum fines imposed on a person convicted of drink driving per financial year, by court location**

Court location	Year	Number of fines imposed	Maximum	Mean
Levin	2012/2013	96	\$1,000	\$595
	2013/2014	84	\$1,500	\$587
Masterton	2012/2013	125	\$2,000	\$635
	2013/2014	128	\$1,250	\$611
Wellington	2012/2013	372	\$2,200	\$627
	2013/2014	338	\$2,500	\$599
Porirua	2012/2013	228	\$2,000	\$602
	2013/2014	231	\$1,500	\$581
Hutt Valley	2012/2013	99	\$1,500	\$567
	2013/2014	254	\$2,000	\$595

**Table 3: Average and maximum number of Community Work hours imposed on a person convicted of drink driving per financial year, by court location**

Court location	Year	Number of Community Work sentences imposed	Maximum (hours)	Mean (hours)
Levin	2012/2013	70	200	87
	2013/2014	38	275	98
Masterton	2012/2013	50	200	91
	2013/2014	45	300	120
Wellington	2012/2013	111	280	101
	2013/2014	97	300	119
Porirua	2012/2013	178	300	89
	2013/2014	149	400	118
Hutt Valley	2012/2013	43	240	129
	2013/2014	143	350	119

**Table 4: Average and maximum number of Supervision days imposed on a person convicted of drink driving per financial year, by court location**

Court location	Year	Number of Supervision sentences imposed	Maximum (days)	Mean (days)
Levin	2012/2013	53	365	292
	2013/2014	27	365	271
Masterton	2012/2013	46	365	237
	2013/2014	46	365	247
Wellington	2012/2013	76	365	246
	2013/2014	86	365	241
Porirua	2012/2013	146	365	244
	2013/2014	107	365	252
Hutt Valley	2012/2013	37	365	251
	2013/2014	95	365	243

**Table 5: Number of people convicted of a drink driving offence and imprisoned, per financial year, by court location**

Court location	Year	
	2012/2013	2013/2014
Levin	8	9
Masterton	4	4
Wellington	11	11
Porirua	16	4
Hutt Valley	6	12
Total	45	40

**Table 6: Average and maximum length of Imprisonment imposed on a person convicted of drink driving per financial year, by court location**

Court location	Year	Number of prison sentences imposed	Maximum (months)	Mean (months)
Levin	2012/2013	8	13	4
	2013/2014	9	11	5
Masterton	2012/2013	4	12	8
	2013/2014	4	6	5
Wellington	2012/2013	11	11	5
	2013/2014	11	18	7
Porirua	2012/2013	16	18	6
	2013/2014	4	24	8
Hutt Valley	2012/2013	6	4	2
	2013/2014	12	13	4

Note: Excludes life imprisonment

**Table 7: Number of people convicted for drink driving in the financial years 2012/13-2013/14 who have previously been convicted of a drink driving offence**

Court location	Previous conviction		% with previous drink driving conviction
	No	Yes	
Levin	96	95	50%
Masterton	111	97	47%
Wellington	221	211	49%
Porirua	221	265	55%
Hutt Valley	160	225	58%

Note: to avoid counting individuals twice, the number of people previously convicted of a drink driving offence has not been broken down by financial year in Table 7. Each individual is counted once for their most recent drink driving conviction in the years 2012/13 -2013/14. Individuals are considered to have a previous conviction if they have been convicted of a drink driving offence from 1980 up to their most recent drink driving conviction.

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