

24 March 2023

IR-01-22-37059

Lance O'Riley  
[fyi-request-21280-f6d59a1b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-21280-f6d59a1b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Lance

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 28 November 2022 which was partially transferred to New Zealand Police by the Ministry of Justice on 30 November 2022. You requested data on ram raid, burglary and aggravated robbery offences. Please find the responses to each part of your request below:

*1a: Total number of offences commonly referred to as 'ram raids' that have been reported.*

*1b: Total number of reported ram raids that have resulted in the offender being identified*

*1c: Total number of reported ram raids that have resulted in the offender being charged with an offence.*

Please refer to the attached tables 1a, 1b/c in Appendix 1.

The data provides the number of occurrences where the "scene type" was identified as a retail or commercial location and texts describing the incidents suggests a ram raid style burglary took place. Due to detailed retail scene codes only being introduced in April 2017, Police is unable to provide data prior to this date. Your request for information prior to April 2017 is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information requested is not held.

It is important to note that the attached data is indicative-only, as it was collated by text-mining free-text fields. This is an inherently more subjective approach and provides less robust data than using pre-set field. Any additional text that is added by an officer at the scene, or subsequently during investigation, is subjective, and can be entered inconsistently from one incident to the next, and from one district to the next.

It is therefore possible that ram raid style burglaries were missed due to the phrase not being included in the free text. Conversely, the figures may also include incidents that were related but not actually ram raid style burglaries in and of themselves (e.g. receiving stolen property, or a person acting suspiciously prior to a ram raid style burglary).

*2a: Total number of burglaries at retail premises*

*2b: Total number of burglaries at retail premises that have resulted in the offender being identified*

*2c: Total number of burglaries at retail premises that have resulted in the offender being charged with an offence*

*3a: Total number of burglaries at residential premises*

*3b: Total number of burglaries at residential premises that have resulted in the offender being identified*

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## 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)

*3c: Total number of burglaries at residential premises that have resulted in the offender being charged with an offence*

*4a: Total number of aggravated robberies at retail premises*

*4b: Total number of aggravated robberies at retail premises that have resulted in the offender being identified*

*4c: Total number of aggravated robberies at retail premises that have resulted in the offender being charged with an offence.*

Please refer to the attached tables 2, 3 and 4 in Appendix 1, which shows the number of reported victimisations for each of these respective crime categories, broken down by the outcome of the investigation as at 30 days after being reported to Police and by month for the period from 1 July 2014 to December 2022, as follows:

Table 2 - Reported Burglary victimisations at Retail locations

Table 3 - Reported Burglary victimisations at Residential locations

Table 4 - Reported Aggravated Robbery victimisations at Retail locations.

A victimisation counts each occasion of a person being victimised for each given type of offence division. Victimisations are classified according to the most serious offences within an offence division. Police statistics on reported victimisations commenced on 1 July 2014. Figures prior to 1 July 2014 are not available and therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA.

*5a: Average age of offenders identified for each of the above categories*

Police publishes statistics by age group and not the average age of offenders for specific crime categories. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA as the requested information is not held.

However, table 5a in Appendix 1 shows the number proceedings against offenders for each of the crime categories broken down by offender age group and by month for the period from 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2022.

*5d: Average number of offenders identified who have been previously identified as an offender for any of the above categories*

This would require Police to manually search through a large number of files to identify the offenders and then cross-reference if they have been involved in any other related offences therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA. That the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

*5e: Breakdown of what charges were laid in each of the above categories*

Please refer to table 5e in Appendix 1, which shows the number of proceedings against offenders resulting in court action by offence description, for each of the crime category and by month for the period from 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2022.

A proceeding counts each separate occasion when Police deals with an alleged offender for one or more offences. Proceedings for official statistics are classified according to the most serious offence that the offender is dealt with on that occasion.

Please note that data, for each of the tables (1 – Occurrences for ‘ram raids’, 2-4 – Reported victimisations and 5 – Proceedings against offenders), are counted differently and are not comparable.

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You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review this 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

For your information, Police has developed a process for proactive release of information, so the anonymised response to your request may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mere Wilson Tuala-Fata".

Mere Wilson Tuala-Fata  
**Director**  
**Prevention: Innovation & Change**  
**Iwi & Communities**

