

28 May 2012

D and L
fyi-request-219-ac4396f6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Official Information Request

I refer to your correspondence received on the 8th May 2012 in which you requested:

- a. *Any statistics / information held regarding the use of the Armed Offenders Squad in situations where the offenders are not armed offenders / armed or known or dangerous to the Police i.e. the use of the Armed Offenders Squad for warranted / warrant less drug raids not involving weapons in the last 3 - 5 years.*
- b. *id like to request the legal requirements for reason to believe or reason to suspect.*

Your request for information has been declined under the Official Information Act 1982, section 18(g) that the information is not held.

The AOS are deployed on the basis of a risk assessment of the incident or offender. While most of these incidents will involve firearms they also include those where it was believed or suspected that firearms are presented.

Armed Offender Squads do maintain a national database on deployments and with respect to firearms we do record when firearms are found and details of the last 4 calendar years are:

Calendar Year	Firearms Found	Financial Year	Number of Callouts
2008	219	01-07-07 to 30-06-08	650
2009	290	01-07-08 to 30-06-09	789
2010	291	01-07-09 to 30-06-10	989
2011	225	01-07-10 to 30-06-11	862

Safer Communities Together

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I have also included total callouts. It should be noted that these are shown by financial years 01 July to 30 June so this is not a direct comparison. The firearms found statistics do not include incidents where the offender(s) may have had a firearms but were not located or the firearm was disposed of. The data does not therefore give a reliable assessment

Question (b) calls for a legal opinion not for information so I do not intend to respond to this particular question however I believe this issue was covered in the Law Commissions report on search and surveillance which is available on their web site. If you are not satisfied with the response to your request you are entitled to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman and seek an investigation regarding the decision.

Yours sincerely

Superintendent Bruce Dunstan
Commander: National Tactical Groups
Police National Headquarters

