

12 April 2023

IR-01-23-6847

K Hudson
C/O - fyi-request-22015-c4b61ea4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe K Hudson

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 6 March 2023 relating to the national cannabis eradication programme.

You requested the annual spend each year for the past five years of the following:

1. *Costs for helicopter use for aerial searching of cannabis*
2. *Costs for Police staff for aerial searching of cannabis*
3. *Costs for Police staff for ground searching of cannabis.*
4. *If direct costs are not available, please provide the total time Police staff can attribute to aerial and ground search and surveillance of cannabis.*

In relation to the first part of your request, this information is withheld pursuant to s9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA because providing it would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

In relation to requests 2 – 4, Police staff do not maintain timesheets of their activities on an hourly or daily basis. This means it is not possible to retrieve or calculate costs for Police staff to carry out aerial or ground searching of cannabis, or to provide the total time Police staff can attribute to these activities without substantial collation and research. Therefore, this part of your request is refused pursuant to s18(f) of the OIA.

We can provide the following information showing the total actual costs for the last five years, noting that the 2022/23 financial year is not yet finalised.

Cannabis Eradication Programme

Financial Year	Actual	Note
2022/23	372,569	Financial year to date, to 20 March 2023
2021/22	548,838	12 months
2020/21	10,564	12 months
2019/20	1,022,174	12 months
2018/19	710,215	12 months

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington SX11149
Telephone: (04) 474 9499. www.police.govt.nz

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you have the right to ask the Office of the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of my decision.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Greg Williams
Detective Superintendent
National Manager Organised Crime
Te Ohu Whakamana Taihara o Aotearoa