

# Hon Marama Davidson

Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence and Sexual Violence  
Minita mō te Ārai i te Whakarekerekere Whānau me te Koeretanga  
Associate Minister of Housing (Homelessness)  
Minita Tuarua mō Ngā Take Whare (Kāinga Kore)



2023\_OIA086

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Tēnā koe Lance

Thank you for your email of 26 March 2023 in which you asked for information about comments I made. Your request has been treated in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Your questions and my responses are as follows:

- 1. Please provide the information that supports this statement.*

Please refer to a copy of my public statement from 27 March 2023 which clarifies the comments I made on 25 March 2023. This is attached as Appendix A.

In respect of the statistical evidence relating to violence in Aotearoa, the information that I rely on as Minister is that which is publicly available and relied on by a range of government agencies and sector organisations.

Statistics from the Ministry of Justice show that in 2022 90 percent of people convicted of family violence offences were male (7,170 people). 35 percent of people convicted were European. In 2022, 99 percent of people convicted of sexual offences were male (782 people). 46 percent of people convicted were European.

While the above data relates to those people convicted of family violence and sexual violence offences, there are high rates of attrition through the criminal justice system (ie not progressing to conviction) particularly in relation to reported sexual violence victimisations (see [Ministry of Justice Attrition and Progression report](#)). I also wish to note that we know reported violence does not equate to the prevalence of violence within our communities in Aotearoa. The NZ Crime and Victims Survey shows that only 32% of family violence is reported to Police and only 8% of sexual violence offences are reported to Police.

It is important to recognise the gaps in the data regarding the incidence of violence, particularly for diverse communities. I consider the voices and expertise of communities and sectors and the lived experience of victim-survivors to be critical evidence alongside population and administrative data. Te Aorerekura – the National Strategy for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence – seeks to address these gaps by creating a learning and monitoring system under Actions 38 and 39 of the first Action Plan.

For more information regarding information on population data and the gendered nature of violence and impacts on diverse communities please refer to Appendix B (attached).

2. *Please also provide the actions you have taken as a minister to develop violence prevention strategies that target problem or high risk areas of violence in New Zealand.*

I have interpreted this part of your request as relating to the progress made in relation my work programme as Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence.

In 2021 I launched [Te Aorerekura – The National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence](#). Victim-survivors contributed to this strategy and it puts people impacted by violence at the centre. Te Aorerekura requires government agencies work together in partnership with victim-survivors, community providers and the specialist sector, to develop responses that are evidence-based, safe, timely and appropriate.

Some populations or communities are more impacted by family and sexual violence than others, and Te Aorerekura seeks to address this. Te Aorerekura and the related Action Plan also recognise that a different populations and communities need an approach that works for them and should be based around their particular needs. This includes male survivors of family and sexual violence.

The related 2-year Action Plan consists of 40 actions focussing on what the Government needs to stay accountable and transform the way it works to address family violence and sexual violence. Te Puna Aonui is the joint venture of government agencies implementing Te Aorerekura. You can read more about the progress of the Action Plan on the Te Puna Aonui website here: [Action Plan Delivery Dashboard](#).

If you would like any further information about any aspects of this work programme, please feel free to get in contact with me.

3. *Please provide information and communications around your attendance at the protest event at Albert Park on 25/03/2023*

My attendance at the protest event in Albert Park on 25/03/2023 was arranged in my capacity as the Co-Leader of the Green Party of Aotearoa. While I did not attend in my capacity as the Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence, I acknowledge that when questioned by Counterspin I responded as Minister.

The Act applies to information held by a Minister of the Crown in their official capacity only. It does not include information held by a Minister in their private capacity, in their capacity as an MP or in their capacity as a member of a political party. To this end, I have focussed your request on information held by me in my official capacity only.

Communications between my office and the Prime Minister's Office from 25 March 2023 have been identified as being in scope for this request. These communications are in scope as they took place by virtue of my position as a Minister of the Crown. This information is attached as Appendix C.

Some information has been withheld in accordance with the Act under the following grounds:

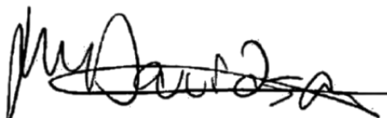
- Section 9(2)(a) of the Act which applies to "protect the privacy of natural persons".
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act which applies to "maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty".

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and affirm those victim-survivors and people who did not see their own experiences of violence reflected in comments I made on Saturday, 25 March. As Minister for Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence, and through [Te Aorerekura our National Strategy to Eliminate Family and Sexual Violence](#), supporting victims of family and sexual violence remains an utmost priority for me.

It is important we continue to talk about how people of all genders and backgrounds can be subjected to family violence or sexual violence. Every victim-survivor deserves to have their experiences validated and have access to the support they need. I want to assure you that I remain firmly focused on our collective work towards an Aotearoa New Zealand where all people and families can be safe, and live their lives free from violence.

You have the right under section 28(3) to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Marama Davidson

**Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence**

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## **Appendix A: Statement from Hon Marama Davidson Monday 27 March 2023.**

On Saturday morning, I was hit by a motorcyclist who struck me at a pedestrian crossing. The person who hit me was part of a convoy of motorcyclists.

A short time after the incident, I was confronted by a representative from the far-right and conspiracy theory website Counterspin who was filming me walking down the road before accosting me with inflammatory questions. A clip of that video is now circulating online and is being used to distract from a broader conversation about the causes of violence in Aotearoa.

Still in shock, I was not as clear in my comments to the conspiracy theorists Counterspin as I should have been.

Violence is unacceptable in any community and as the Minister responsible for Aotearoa's first ever plan to eliminate family violence and sexual violence, I am committed to an Aotearoa where all people are safe and can live peaceful lives. My top priority is to support, protect and believe all victims and survivors of violence.

Women are overwhelmingly more likely to be victims of family violence and sexual violence at the hands of men. It is also important to acknowledge the disproportionate impact violence has on our rainbow whānau and diverse communities.

I should have made clear in my comments that violence happens in every community. My intention was to affirm that trans people are deserving of support and to keep the focus on the fact that men are the main perpetrators of violence.

I will continue to stand with my trans and non-binary whānau and support action to ensure that everyone can live their lives without fear of hate or discrimination.

I will not be commenting further at this time.

**Source:** [https://www.greens.org.nz/statement\\_from\\_marama\\_davidson](https://www.greens.org.nz/statement_from_marama_davidson)

## **Appendix B – Further information on population data and gendered nature of violence**

### [Data tables | New Zealand Ministry of Justice](#)

These data tables show specific offences and the outcome in the justice system. For information on gender and ethnicity please refer to the data tables related to specific offence types e.g:

- Homicide offences
- Sexual offences
- Family violence offences
- Offences related to family violence
- Violent Offences – e.g. Table 3b: Number and percentage of people convicted of violent offences by gender, ethnicity and age group 2013 – 2022

### [New Zealand Crime & Victims Survey \(NZCVS\) | New Zealand Ministry of Justice](#)

This survey collects information each year from 8,000 New Zealanders from all walks of life. Not all crimes are reported to the Police, so this survey is intended to provide a clearer picture of victimisation in New Zealand.

Of particular relevance, given the focus of the protest event, the Crime and Victims Survey shows that LGBTQIA+ people experience higher levels of violence than other New Zealanders. 68% of bisexual adults will experience interpersonal sexual violence compared with the national average of 29%.

### [Family Violence Death Review Committee 6<sup>th</sup> Report](#)

The [Family Violence Death Committee](#)'s sixth report "Men who use violence | Ngā tāne ka whakamahi i te whakarekerekere" provides an analysis on intimate partner violence deaths between 2009-2027 and related gender and ethnicity data.

The Report states that from 2009 to 2017, 230 deaths resulting from family violence were recorded in Aotearoa, with intimate partner violence the single largest contributor. Among the 102 deaths resulting from intimate partner violence:

- 76% of offenders were men
- 71% of those killed were women.

### [Police Homicide Victims Report 2020](#)

Police Statistics on Homicide Victims in New Zealand 2007-2019 provides a summary of statistics about Victims of Murder, Manslaughter and Infanticide.

The Report notes that around 16% of homicides were committed by current or ex-partners, and of these 74% of victims were female.

### [National Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey 2021](#)

The National Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey 2021 'What about me?' notes that rangatahi Māori, females, rainbow and disabled young people all experience higher rates of harm and have fewer protective factors.

It provides ethnic breakdowns in relation to experiences of harm at home and unwanted sexual contact.

The following resources provide more analysis and discussion on the gendered nature of violence and the impacts of violence on diverse communities.

- [Te Aorerekura – The National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence](#). Pages 10-13 of the strategy provide a summary of family violence and sexual violence in Aotearoa New Zealand, how family violence and sexual violence are about power, and how gender inequities shape family violence and sexual violence.
- [Family Violence Capability Frameworks](#) – these frameworks provide information that offers a shared understanding of family violence and sets standards and essential knowledge to guide and support people and organisations to respond to family violence in safe and effective ways.

Pages 16-38 of both frameworks address the gendered nature of family violence and impacts on diverse communities.

- [Te Puna Aonui analysis papers from communities](#) – these papers summarise what government heard from key groups in the family and sexual violence system during engagement to develop Te Aorerekura. They draw on some existing evidence that highlights the prevalence and different dynamics of violence each of these groups experience.

## Appendix C

Communication	Decision/Information
Phone call: Hon Davidson's Chief of Staff to PM's Chief Press Secretary, 12.56pm, 25 March 2023	Recollection of conversation: informed PM's Chief Press Secretary of incident with motorcycle at the event related to Kellie-Jay Keen's visit to New Zealand ( <b><i>the incident</i></b> ) and intention to release a Green Party statement to media regarding the incident. PM's Chief Press Secretary offered to inform the PM and PM's Chief of Staff.
Phone call: Hon Davidson's Chief of Staff to PM's Chief Press Secretary, 1.49pm, 25 March 2023	Recollection of conversation: discussed draft statement about the incident.
Phone call: PM's Chief of Staff to Hon Davidson's Chief of Staff, 1.58pm, 25 March 2023	Recollection of conversation: Noted that the PM had been informed of the incident. Hon Davidson's Chief of Staff provided a status update regarding Minister Davidson's personal wellbeing.
Text messages: Hon Davidson's Chief of Staff and PM's Chief Press Secretary, 25 March 2023	Text messages regarding draft statement about the incident and regarding Minister Davidson's personal wellbeing. Withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
Text messages: Hon Davidson's Chief of Staff and PM's Chief of Staff, 25 March 2023	Text messages regarding Minister Davidson's personal wellbeing. Messages withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.