

10 August 2023

Lance Watson
fyi-request-23513-3dfcc936@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 106121

Tēnā koe Lance

Official Information Act request

I am writing in response to your email of 17 July 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information relating to Deputy Sheriffs in New Zealand.

You asked, *“Is the appointment of Deputy Sheriffs still a common practice in New Zealand? If not, when was the last time this practice was used?”*

I can confirm the appointment of Deputy Sheriffs is still a common practice in New Zealand. Both Deputy Sheriffs and Sheriffs can be appointed under the Public Service Act 2020 for offices of the High Court. They are located at the sole High Courts which are Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. Their powers mainly involve enforcing orders or judgments issued by the Court.

You also asked, *“Is the arrest of persons in accordance with an order of the High Court by a Sheriff still a common practice in New Zealand, as opposed to arrest by the New Zealand Police? If not, when was the last time a registrar (acting as a Sheriff) or Deputy Sheriff arrested someone under the powers granted to them in this act?”*

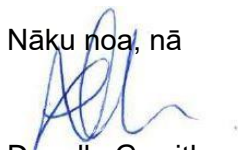
The arrest of someone by a Sheriff (or a bailiff acting on instructions from a Sheriff) in accordance with a High Court order is uncommon but still happens from time to time. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Justice does not record data on when the last time a Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff or Registrar arrested someone.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/.

If you require any further information, please contact Media and Social Media Manager Joe Locke at media@justice.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Donella Gawith

Acting Group Manager, Senior Courts