

22 July 2024

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Tēnā koe Jonathon

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 30 May 2024. You wrote:

I am writing to request the statistics and data on stolen vehicles in Lower Hutt.

Specifically I would request an "excel spreadsheet" containing the following columns from the date range - 01/06/2023 - 31/05/2024.

- Date stolen*
- Date victim reported it as stolen*
- Date of first correspondence from police to the victim after report was made.
- Location stolen from*
 - Was CCTV or imagery evidence provided to police or uploaded to VAULT?
(Y/N)*
 - Date?
- Vehicle Rego*
 - Make/Model & Year
- Vehicle Found (Y/N)*
 - Damaged? details?*
 - Date recovered?*
 - Location recovered?*
 - Was the vehicle identified in other areas in lower hutt prior to its final location?
- Date victim advised of recovery?
- Suspects found?* (Y/N)
 - Suspects charged?* (Y/N)
 - What was the charge? and punishment?*
 - Specifically any reparations? (Y/N)
 - Specifically any Suspension of licence? (Y/N)

If this date range is too wide. please shorten this to the most recent 6 month period ending at the most recent date available.

I have limited this data to specifically Lower Hutt to reduce the required workload in acquiring this data.

All above requested data is highly valuable and would be greatly appreciated if it can be provided. However, I understand something may not have been recorded in a manor that is accessible within reason on request. details marked with a () are of the highest priority.*

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

Vault uploads and suspects charged is of key interest into this enquiry.

Information you requested is provided in the attached spreadsheet, except for the following:

- Vehicle registration is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of those vehicle's owners. While the vehicle registration is provided on the Police website, this is a six-month snapshot of data which it is in the public interest to release to help identify and locate stolen vehicles. It is provided at District level and without any other accompanying details listed in your request. This same over-riding public interest does not apply when considering releasing this information in response to your request.
- For the same privacy reason, the scene and recovery locations are provided at Station level¹.
- These fields are not provided under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held. Each case would need to be reviewed manually to create this information.
 - Was CCTV or imagery evidence provided to police or uploaded to VAULT? (Y/N)
 - Date?
 - Damaged? details?
 - Was the vehicle identified in other areas in lower hutt prior to its final location?
 - Date victim advised of recovery?
 - Specifically any Suspension of licence? (Y/N)
- The court outcomes are summarised in this letter separately and this is explained further below.

You have the right 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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Based on your question about suspension of licence, I think it may be useful for you to have some context about how Police data is recorded. One occurrence may have multiple offences (for example, unlawful takes vehicle, robbery, and assault) and some of these may be resolved while other are still under investigation. Multiple vehicles could be taken in one offence. In some instances, a vehicle is recovered before it is reported as stolen to Police.

Not all stolen vehicles are stolen in a Theft of Vehicle or Unlawful Takes offence. There may be other instances, such as a robbery where the suspect takes a vehicle afterwards, or an assault. Note that if more serious offences are committed at the same time, the person may not always be charged with each individual offence, in line with the Solicitor-General's Prosecution Guidelines². There could also be concurrent offences, such as drugs being discovered in a stolen vehicle.

¹ <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/structure/police-districts>

² <https://www.crownlaw.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Prosecution-Guidelines/ProsecutionGuidelines2013.pdf>

Some offences may have multiple identified offenders and each of them may have a different proceeding decision (for example, one could be prosecuted while another referred to youth services, in the same offence).

Additionally, a conviction can result in multiple sentences, such as order for destruction, community service, and reparation.

The summarised tables therefore show the number of offences in occurrences where vehicles were recorded as stolen, not the number of vehicles.

Table 1. Offence outcomes for vehicles reported stolen between 1 June 2023 to 31 May 2024 in Lower Hutt, as at 11 July 2024.

Offence outcome as at 11 July 2024	Offences in occurrences where a vehicle was recorded as stolen
Duplicate	6
Error	3
No further line of enquiry	610
Not an offence	17
Offender identified	127
Police discretion	27
Victim Uncooperative/Unavailable	16
Under investigation	218
Total	1,024

There are also instances where a vehicle was reported stolen and later the victim realised, for example, that they simply forgot where they parked it. Such instances would be re-coded as No Offence.

Table 2. Outcomes in offences where offender was identified for occurrences with stolen vehicles between 1 June 2023 to 31 May 2024 in Lower Hutt, as at 11 July 2024.

Offence Outcomes where offender was identified as at 11 July 2024	Sentence Type as at 11 July 2024	Offences in occurrences where a vehicle was recorded as stolen
Prosecution - Case Proved and Sentenced (Youth Court)	Social Welfare Supervision	10
Prosecution - Case Proved and Sentenced (Youth Court)	Supervision With Residence	5
Prosecution - Convicted	Not yet sentenced	18
Prosecution - Convicted and Discharged		1
Prosecution - Convicted and Sentenced	Community Detention	1
Prosecution - Convicted and Sentenced	Home Detention	1
Prosecution - Convicted and Sentenced	Imprisonment	6
Prosecution - Convicted and Sentenced	Intensive Supervision	2
Prosecution - Convicted and Sentenced	Order For Destruction	1
Prosecution - Convicted and Sentenced	Supervision (SA2007)	1
Prosecution - Convicted and Sentenced	To Come Up For Sentence If Called Upon	3
Prosecution - Discharged under Section 282 CYPF Act	Order For Destruction	1
Prosecution - Discharged under Section 282 CYPF Act	Reparation/Restitution	1

Prosecution - Discharged under Section 282 CYPF Act		4
Prosecution - Withdrawn By Leave		16
Prosecution - Proceedings in progress		51
Te Pae Oranga		1
Youth Referral		47
	Unique Total	156

Data in this response is drawn from a dynamic operational database and is subject to change as new information is recorded or updated.

Please note that as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police proactively releases some information and documents that may be of interest to the public. An anonymised version of this response may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Ngā mihi



Zane Kearns

Director: Performance and Data (acting)