

3 December 2024

IR-01-24-34691

F Cook

fyi-request-28589-a923828f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear F Cook

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 30 September 2024 requesting information about Police procedures in respect of storing, handling and destruction of controlled drugs.

You have asked for:

'...detailed information regarding the standard procedures for the destruction of controlled drugs within the jurisdiction of New Zealand. Specifically, I am seeking clarification on the following points:

1. Could you please confirm if there is a standard or formal procedure in place for the destruction of controlled drugs? If so, please detail these procedures.

2. I would like to understand the complete process involved in the security and destruction of controlled drugs, starting from the moment they are stored as evidence. This includes, but is not limited to:

2a. The protocols for securely storing controlled drugs while they are in police custody.

2b. The steps involved in handling and documenting these drugs as evidence.

2c. Any procedures to verify if subsection 18 (2) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 applies to the evidence (e.g. licence verification or section 8, including subsection 8 (7) [palliation])

2d. Any specific procedures for transporting controlled drugs to the location where destruction takes place.

2e. The destruction process itself, including any oversight, verification, or record-keeping mechanisms.

2f. Any follow-up actions taken after the destruction of the controlled drugs.

3. Could you please provide a breakdown of controlled drugs taken into evidence, the quantity of controlled drug, what region it was held in, how long it was held before destruction, and ideally what procedure was used to destroy the controlled drug if different from a standard procedure. Ideally this should include at least the last 5 years of data, or as much historic data available.

If some steps or procedures vary depending on the specific situation, or controlled drug, or if parts of the process are not formally outlined, or some information is not available, I kindly ask that you provide as much information as is available for each part of the request mentioned above.'

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
Telephone: 04 474 9499. 04 498 7400. www.police.govt.nz

In response to your questions 1 to 2f, I can advise that Police proactively releases information on the New Zealand Police website that is considered high public interest, including information relating to the areas you have asked about. In particular, I refer you to the following links:

[Drugs – Police Manual Chapters](#)

[Exhibits and Property – Police Manual Chapters](#)

Some information in these chapters has been redacted, with the relevant section of the OIA that applies indicated in these sections of the documents.

In relation to your question 3 and request for historic data on Police drug seizures, I attach Police seizure data from 2019 to 2024, listed by commodity and Police District.

Please note that the data for 2023 and 2024 is provisional and subject to change, and that the data provided for 2024 is year-to-date data from January to September 2024 only.

Information relating to the storage and destruction of the drugs is not retained by Police in the form you have requested. This information is therefore refused pursuant to s18(f) OIA, in that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you have the right to seek a review of my decision by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Warren Olsson
Detective Inspector
National Criminal Investigations Group
Police National Headquarters

Below tables show quantity of seizures by NZ Police, for 2019 - 2024 YTD*, by commodity and by District.

*YTD is January 2024 - September 2024 only.

Commodity: Cannabis						
Drug form: Head/leaf						
Unit of measure: Grams						
Police District	Quantity seized					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (YTD)
Auckland City	19,795.01	53,392.13	50,736.85	56,727.36	23,748.06	124,599.19
Bay of Plenty	134,729.48	86,137.66	89,039.84	125,050.16	86,654.09	172,976.08
Canterbury	37,757.29	20,225.11	38,738.34	24,164.90	32,227.49	16,750.34
Central	48,223.97	111,504.09	82,662.81	95,069.81	81,070.74	81,273.98
Counties/Manukau	40,291.21	108,981.56	134,457.74	87,613.29	151,091.05	128,699.32
Eastern	42,712.76	65,171.71	51,615.86	87,148.82	65,894.11	30,641.69
Northland	31,514.36	71,680.50	94,731.48	129,572.61	69,611.42	50,383.43
Southern	20,372.54	57,900.40	35,241.13	31,710.05	46,616.22	62,585.22
Tasman	38,058.99	35,453.79	30,171.81	98,220.50	42,009.18	25,738.93
Waikato	53,477.82	67,936.76	57,260.81	35,203.09	11,064.58	30,116.51
Waitemata	28,267.39	58,284.80	36,641.09	190,985.66	159,968.91	61,016.88
Wellington	15,527.71	41,470.55	42,229.20	45,532.38	33,266.80	15,260.80
Total	510,728.52	778,139.08	743,526.97	1,006,998.62	803,222.65	800,042.37

Commodity: Cocaine						
Drug form: Powder/crystal						
Unit of measure: Grams						
Police District	Quantity seized					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (YTD)
Auckland City	280.24	128.41	858.62	422.27	1,164.45	410.59
Bay of Plenty	10.00	5.00	3.50	1.86	58.81	29.67
Canterbury	59.70	16.90	501.68		669.18	6.92
Central	74.22	15.70	0.98		0.72	0.86
Counties/Manukau	401.59	17.71	27.62	612.36	286.20	135.20
Eastern	2.80	61.80		1.25	176.72	234.71
Northland	1.44	4.39	2.41	4.85	0.92	2.10
Southern	21.63	5.56	16.50	37.01	172.39	43.64
Tasman	1.00				17.60	16.97
Waikato	0.01			3.50	3.97	758.25
Waitemata	24,020.70	269.41	28.72	87.73	706.47	271.11
Wellington	3.07	115.03	0.80	30.73	1,432.79	354.30
Total	24,876.40	639.91	1,440.83	1,201.56	4,690.22	2,264.32

Commodity: GBL-type substances (GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD)						
Drug form: Liquid						
Unit of measure: Millilitres						
Police District	Quantity seized					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (YTD)
Auckland City	20,320.78	7,634.31	35,231.50	471.08	1,618.80	303.41
Bay of Plenty		1,157.00	117.50	30.00	59.00	885.00
Canterbury	30.08				100.00	
Central	221.60	329.62	1,320.00	28.00	3,837.42	413.89
Counties/Manukau	297.00	8,646.75	21.00	26,635.00	47.11	79.45
Eastern	4.00		1,005.00			
Northland		165.24	100.00			171.00
Southern					92.15	500.00
Tasman		1,282.00			30.00	20.00
Waikato	3.00	9,060.10		1,174.50	162.00	807.22
Waitemata	1,191.46	694.43	665.50	635.00	5,485.00	2,843.40
Wellington	1,343.83	407,981.42	1,260.83	4,431.10	6,093.33	1,656.00
Total	23,411.75	436,950.87	39,721.33	33,404.68	17,524.81	7,679.37

Commodity: Ketamine						
Drug form: Powder/crystal						
Unit of measure: Grams						
Police District	Quantity seized					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (YTD)
Auckland City	3.79	29.11		3.89	7.70	1,510.65
Bay of Plenty		116.07	46.48	0.30		
Canterbury		2.79			69.71	87.23
Central		1.00			0.93	1.06
Counties/Manukau	464.80	145.30	80.13	1.20	14.91	
Eastern		4.90		1.20	2.93	1.00
Northland		0.71	37.00		0.10	
Southern	4.68	2.44	134.05	11.14	15.00	22.71
Tasman				1.82	30.10	160.66
Waikato				1,024.00	1.00	
Waitemata	7.40	2.40			32.00	287.00
Wellington			250.00	0.88	195.86	863.00
Total	480.67	304.72	547.66	1,044.43	370.24	2,933.31

Commodity: LSD						
Drug form: Tabs						
Unit of measure: Number of						
Police District	Quantity seized					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (YTD)
Auckland City	572.50	1,751.00	240.00	18.00	140.00	61.00
Bay of Plenty	14.00	95.00	69.00	40.00	55.00	204.00
Canterbury	217.00	44.00	253.50	115.00	170.00	30.00
Central	89.00	427.00	425.00	95.00	14.50	122.00
Counties/Manukau	217.00	5,100.25	27.00	245.50	235.00	42.00
Eastern	549.25	95.50	61.00	176.00	8.00	274.00
Northland	4.00	623.50	187.50	199.50	42.00	9.50
Southern	2,025.00	537.50	2,565.00	314.50	226.00	72.00
Tasman	202.25	260.50	67.00	257.00	267.00	75.00
Waikato	157.00	80.00	31.00	56.00	144.00	7.00
Waitemata	91.75	1,348.00	41.00	157.00	96.00	1,543.00
Wellington	31.00	255.00	983.00	49.00	6,470.50	5.00
Total	4,169.75	10,617.25	4,950.00	1,722.50	7,868.00	2,444.50

Commodity: MDMA						
Drug form: Tablet equivalents (TEs)						
Unit of measure: Number of						
Police District	Quantity seized					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (YTD)
Auckland City	<i>Not available by Police District</i>					
Bay of Plenty						
Canterbury						
Central						
Counties/Manukau						
Eastern						
Northland						
Southern						
Tasman						
Waikato						
Waitemata						
Wellington						
Total						

Commodity: Methamphetamine						
Drug form: Powder/crystal						
Unit of measure: Grams						
Police District	Quantity seized					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (YTD)
Auckland City	227,878.46	4,516.64	16,239.05	3,147.36	2,653.96	39,537.43
Bay of Plenty	139,750.97	1,364.35	958.10	1,327.59	2,058.29	627.80
Canterbury	7,158.63	3,627.21	1,539.59	798.04	2,399.83	800.15
Central	1,769.63	1,584.05	2,805.45	1,061.78	3,310.68	731.15
Counties/Manukau	8,323.06	4,515.01	11,412.93	6,074.56	329,532.13	6,069.15
Eastern	711.93	1,131.00	1,776.76	1,106.21	83,555.91	5,743.38
Northland	572.43	2,471.50	495.54	733.69	1,510.73	269.30
Southern	958.44	521.74	1,465.71	636.28	425.66	350.30
Tasman	806.10	943.80	66.55	270.85	2,603.73	240.29
Waikato	220,649.88	4,571.70	745.94	3,005.23	657.29	773.23
Waitemata	2,890.82	4,707.06	4,777.71	1,767.34	21,063.09	1,329.52
Wellington	4,106.14	1,394.54	1,894.49	1,879.75	12,213.09	5,508.90
Total	615,576.50	31,348.60	44,177.82	21,808.68	461,984.39	61,980.59



Caveats

All data for 2023 and 2024 is provisional and subject to change.

Data provided for 2024 year-to-date (YTD) is January 2024 - September 2024 only.

Data provided is NZ Police seizures only.

Grams and millilitres are reported to 2 decimal places. Units of measure are specified with each commodity reported on the 'NZP seizures by District' tab.

Commodities provided are the main illicit drug commodities seized by NZ Police only.

MDMA is reported in TE (tablet equivalents). TE data is not available by Police District.