

WELLINGTON

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PROTECTING NEW ZEALAND'S BORDER

22 April 2016

Ref: OIA 16-064

Nathan

By email: fyi-request-3813-ffa53c15@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Nathan

Request for official information

Thank you for your email to the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) dated 26 March 2016, in which you requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- The total spending within the last 12 months for the prevention and counter measures carried out by the Customs to combat the trafficking of all illegal drugs.
- The total spending within the last 12 months on combatting the trafficking of:
 - Class A drugs
 - Class B drugs
 - Class C drugs
- The total spending within the last 12 months on combatting the trafficking of:

- Valium	- Xanax
- LSD	- PCP
- MDMA	- Marijuana
- Mescaline	- Psilocybin
- Heroin	- Morphine
- Codeine	- Cocaine
- Methamphetamine	- Amphetamine

In response to your request, please note that Customs does not have a separate budget for drug enforcement in isolation from the integrated protection and facilitation outcomes it is core-funded to deliver. Therefore, Customs is unable to provide a dollar value for the total spending within the last 12 months specifically for the prevention and counter measures carried out by Customs to combat the trafficking of drugs.

The majority of the drug enforcement work is carried out by Customs' Intelligence, Investigations and Enforcement, and Border Operations groups. The total appropriation for those groups for the period of 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 was \$ 64,652,025, compared to the baseline funding to deliver all services of \$76,190,143. Please note that this does not include services performed by non-operational business units such as the Policy and Legal Groups. Other services provided by Operations in the relevant time period include the clearance of 45,787,380 mail items, 12,643,243 air and sea passengers (including crew), 5,971 marine craft, and the collection of \$2,257,773,088 in excise (tax on locally manufactured goods) and \$2,382,246,374 in duty (tax on imported goods).

At the end of each financial year, Customs undertakes a body of work to quantify the potential harm avoided by our interceptions of some major classes of illicit drugs using the NZ Drug Harm Index. In the 2014/15 financial year, the potential harm avoided by Customs' interceptions of illicit drugs was quantified at over \$156 million. That is compared with just over \$107 million in the 2013/14 financial year. Most of this is due to methamphetamine and its precursors, which accounted for over 97% (\$152.1 million) of the assessed drug harm in 2014/15.

Please feel free to contact Customs again at OIA@customs.govt.nz if you have any further questions relating to drug enforcement, or any of the other services provided by Customs. You have the right, by way of complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman pursuant to section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review of the decision relayed in this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Bamford', written in a cursive style.

Jamie Bamford
Group Manager Intelligence, Investigations and Enforcement