

17 AUG 2016

Dr Chris Wilkins
SHORE Research Team
Massey University
fyi-request-4284-f1c1ac87@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Dr Chris Wilkins

Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request of 20 July 2016. Your request was for the following:

1. outcome of prosecutions for possession or use of cannabis offences by outcome (e.g. convicted, Youth Court, Discharge, etc) for 1990-2016
2. number of people convicted for possession or use of cannabis, by sentence category (e.g. imprisonment, community work, periodic detention, etc), 1990-2016
3. average sentence length imposed for involving possession or use of cannabis offences (imprisonment in months, community work in hours, etc), 1990-2016
4. the same three tables for 'cannabis dealing' and 'other cannabis' offences

Cannabis offences are categorised by the following Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC) subdivisions to which they belong. The data provided uses the following offence codes and categories:

- 104: Possess and/or use illicit drugs
- 102: Deal or traffic in illicit drugs
- 101: Import or export illicit drugs
- 103: Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs
- 109: Other illicit drug offences
- 156: Offences against justice procedures

More information about the ANZSOC classifications is available at:
www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1234.0

In response to your request, please see the attached tables 1 – 4 and the descriptions under each. The data for each table has been extracted separately. Therefore, table totals should not be added together as this will over count the number of people.

In response to question 2, I have provided both the number of people charged and their outcomes for cannabis related offences (tables 2a – 2c) and the number of people convicted and their sentences (tables 3a – 3c) for the same cannabis related offences.

In response to question 3 (tables 4a – 4c) I have included the standard deviation to provide an indication of the variance around the mean statistic. The larger the standard deviation is, the larger the variation or range of the data i.e. where the standard deviation values are larger than their associated mean value, the sentence lengths are more spread out and are not grouped around the mean.

For question 3, data is not available for years prior to 2004 due to changes in the way the Ministry of Justice collects data from the courts and changes made following the introduction of the Sentencing Act 2002.

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response please contact Antony Paltridge, Team Leader, Media and External Relations, at media@justice.govt.nz or call (04) 918 8980.

Yours sincerely



pp.
Heather Baggott
General Manager, District Courts

Ref: 57978