

19 October 2016

Ti Lamusse
fyi-request-4555-2c181584@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ti Lamusse

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 request where you requested the following:

As far as records go back, please provide the following:

- 1. The total number of strip searches conducted by the NZ Police, broken down by year and month.*
- 2. Broken down by gender of the person being searched.*
- 3. Broken down by ethnicity.*
- 4. Please also provide the total number of dangerous or unlawful items found through a strip search.*
- 5. Please provide any data around the number of charges laid against people who have been strip-searched, as a result of their strip search.*

I provide the following response:

1. The total number of strip searches conducted by the NZ Police, broken down by year and month.

Since July 2011, strip searches have been recorded in the Electronic Custody Module. Between July 2011 and September 2016 (inclusive), Police have conducted 41,970 strip searches on detainees in custody. A breakdown of this by year and month can be found on the attached Appendix A.

2. Broken down by gender of the person being searched.

Sex	Number of Strip Searches
Female	5,564
Male	36,396
Unknown	10
Grand Total	41,970

3. Broken down by ethnicity.

Ethnicity	Number of Strip Searches
Asian (incl Indian)	982
European	9,870
Maori	28,415
Pacific Island	2,244
Other	327
Unknown	132
Total	41,970

4. Please also provide the total number of dangerous or unlawful items found through a strip search.

This request is refused pursuant to section 18(f) Official Information Act 1982 as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

5. Please provide any data around the number of charges laid against people who have been strip-searched, as a result of their strip search.

This request is refused pursuant to section 18(f) Official Information Act 1982 as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



Superintendent Chris Scahill
National Manager: Response and Operations



Appendix A: number of strip searches conducted broken down by year and month:

Year-Month	Number of Strip Searches
2011-07	353
2011-08	851
2011-09	747
2011-10	800
2011-11	751
2011-12	788
2012-01	829
2012-02	744
2012-03	814
2012-04	623
2012-05	778
2012-06	694
2012-07	577
2012-08	809
2012-09	772
2012-10	787
2012-11	736
2012-12	666
2013-01	651
2013-02	550
2013-03	604
2013-04	561
2013-05	612
2013-06	498
2013-07	630
2013-08	534
2013-09	471
2013-10	530
2013-11	451
2013-12	427
2014-01	536
2014-02	518
2014-03	621
2014-04	523
2014-05	547
2014-06	576
2014-07	773
2014-08	721
2014-09	637
2014-10	606
2014-11	570

2014-12	573
2015-01	666
2015-02	605
2015-03	572
2015-04	627
2015-05	658
2015-06	629
2015-07	681
2015-08	762
2015-09	696
2015-10	640
2015-11	768
2015-12	758
2016-01	717
2016-02	727
2016-03	695
2016-04	801
2016-05	813
2016-06	824
2016-07	802
2016-08	850
2016-09	840
Total	41,970