

09 APR 2018

C Fuller
fyi-request-7404-8fdc9d92@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear C Fuller

Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 9 March 2018 regarding juror attendance. You have requested the following information:

1. In the last 12 months, how many summonses have been sent by the Ministry of Justice for jury service attendance broken down by:
 - a. district; and
 - b. age group of the persons summoned?
2. Within the same period, what is the median age of this group of people?
3. Within the same period, how many times were people excused from attending jury service, broken down by:
 - a. district;
 - b. age group of the persons summonsed; and
 - c. general reason for being deferred or excused?
4. Within the same period, what number of people served on a jury (broken down by district, and age)?

We have interpreted your request for data to be broken down by district to mean Court district and have provided you the data for each of the courts that hold jury trials throughout New Zealand. Each courthouse falls into one of the following jurisdictional categories:

- Sole High Court registry
- Sole District Court registry
- Combined High and District Court registry

As a result, combined District and High Court registries summons jurors for both District and High Court trials. Those summonses cannot be separated out from one another.

Further information on jury service is available on the Ministry of Justice website:
justice.govt.nz/courts/jury-service

Response to parts 1 and 1a

In response to parts 1 and 1a of your request, please see attached Table 1. We have provided you with the number of summonses issued by each Court, within the 12 months to 28 February 2018.

Response to parts 1b, 2 and 3b

The information you request at parts 1b, 2 and 3b cannot be made available without substantial collation. This is because the Ministry does not report on the ages of jurors and it would require substantial collation to provide you with the information you seek. Therefore, this part of your request is refused pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA.

You may be interested to know that the Ministry receives, from the Electoral Commission, a random electronic selection of registered voters who must be aged 18 years or over. This is how the Ministry ensures jurors are of an eligible age.

Response to parts 3, 3a and 3c

In response to parts 3, 3a and 3c of your request, please see attached Table 2. This table provides information on the reasons for deferrals and excusals from jury service in the 12 months to 28 February 2018, by Court.

Response to part 4

In response to part 4 of your request, the Ministry's Jury Management System does not record the number of people who served on a jury. Therefore, this part of your request is refused pursuant to section 18(g) of the OIA as there are no grounds for believing the information is held by another department, Minister of the Crown, organisation or local authority.

Background to jury service

Every year thousands of New Zealanders give their time to serve on juries. Jury service is an important way everyone contributes to our country and local communities. Jurors help make sure the justice system is fair for all New Zealanders. Most people on the electoral roll who live within 45km of a courthouse where jury trials are held can be randomly selected for jury service.

If someone is summonsed, they will get a letter that tells them to come to court for jury service. The letter will advise the dates, times and court the person should come to, along with a form they will need to send back to the court.

Sometimes a person may not be able to do jury service on the dates for which they have been summonsed. For example, the person might have just had a baby or they might have a medical appointment at that time. If this is the case, they can ask the court to defer jury service to a date that is better for them. The legislation governing juror deferrals are contained under s14b Juries Act 1981.

Some people cannot do jury service. These people are either excused for that occasion only, have their jury service deferred or are permanently excused. This may be because the person works in the justice sector or, being 65 years or older, has requested to be permanently excused. Information about those who cannot serve is on our website here: www.justice.govt.nz/courts/jury-service/who-cant-be/

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

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by writing to PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143; calling 0800 802 602; or emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

I trust that this information assists.

Yours sincerely



PP Jacquelyn Shannon
Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

Ref: 67112

Table 1. Number of jury summonses issued in the 12 months to 28 February 2018, by Court

Court	Number of new summonses
Auckland District Court	15,902
Auckland High Court	8,728
Blenheim High/District Court	1,422
Christchurch District Court	6,617
Christchurch High Court	1,969
Dunedin High/District Court	4,205
Gisborne High/District Court	4,202
Greymouth High/District Court	1,940
Hamilton High/District Court	9,407
Invercargill High/District Court	2,591
Kaikohe District Court	2,908
Manukau District Court	13,261
Napier High/District Court	5,106
Nelson High/District Court	3,858
New Plymouth High/District Court	3,218
Palmerston North High/District Court	5,027
Rotorua High/District Court	7,767
Tauranga District Court	8,015
Timaru High/District Court	2,034
Wanganui High/District Court	3,987
Wellington District Court	7,875
Wellington High Court	2,065
Whangarei High/District Court	7,498
National Total	129,602

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Table 2. Reasons for deferrals and excusals from Jury Service in the 12 months to 28 February 2018, by Court

Court	Aged 65 or Over	Deceased Juror	Family Commitments	Health	Ineligible Occupation	Intellectual Disability	Occupation/ Business	Outside District	Personal Circumstance	Physical Disability	Previous Excusal	Religious Belief	Service in 2 Years
Auckland District Court	1,801	19	1,149	1,043	76	2	3,547	326	1,877	2	2	19	260
Auckland High Court	905	11	647	500	86	10	1,556	398	862	6	1	28	148
Blenheim High/District Court	257	2	68	99	8	1	251	39	99	-	-	2	31
Christchurch District Court	990	10	354	449	38	10	1,936	118	630	-	1	15	74
Christchurch High Court	231	-	136	78	12	6	472	71	187	2	-	4	32
Dunedin High/District Court	625	3	167	248	16	6	838	129	319	1	1	7	45
Gisborne High/District Court	372	4	223	182	18	3	573	117	255	-	-	7	120
Greymouth High/District Court	259	4	80	110	4	2	296	70	131	-	1	5	49
Hamilton High/District Court	993	8	580	548	46	9	2,079	288	776	1	1	19	272
Invercargill High/District Court	407	2	123	144	8	8	481	106	166	-	-	15	42
Kaikohe District Court	363	1	132	158	26	2	419	93	260	-	1	5	136
Manukau District Court	1,226	12	747	648	50	11	2,281	270	888	-	1	25	190
Napier High/District Court	692	4	239	278	19	8	1,075	180	370	1	1	4	135
Nelson High/District Court	547	3	188	195	9	16	801	113	403	-	-	7	125
New Plymouth High/District Court	426	4	172	156	11	7	639	107	235	-	-	8	51
Palmerston North High/District Court	627	4	228	290	14	8	1,087	150	401	-	-	14	56
Rotorua High/District Court	798	10	347	371	33	16	1,268	259	534	-	-	15	298
Tauranga District Court	1,327	6	473	379	23	16	1,615	309	714	-	3	14	197
Timaru High/District Court	377	3	86	114	7	3	360	77	110	-	-	2	23
Wanganui High/District Court	456	2	185	235	33	3	607	125	147	1	2	11	87
Wellington District Court	833	8	451	420	93	14	1,816	161	898	-	1	10	126
Wellington High Court	190	-	142	90	25	1	420	62	228	1	-	5	34
Whangarei High/District Court	1,023	8	408	446	33	6	1,284	195	580	1	3	13	272
National Total	15,725	128	7,325	7,181	688	168	25,701	3,763	11,070	16	19	254	2,803

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