

07 AUG 2018

J Stewart

Fyi-request-8068-9685b414@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Stewart

Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your request of 19 June 2018 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) requesting information regarding criminal convictions and sentences. I am responding as the Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery.

On 10 July 2018 you clarified your request and agreed that the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) provide you with the following information regarding criminal convictions and sentences:

1. *In the last seven years, of people sentenced to prison, how many:*
 - a. *Previous convictions of imprisonable offenses did they have?*
 - b. *Previous convictions did they have before being sentenced to prison for the first time?*
 - c. *Had previous community based sentences which they breached prior to their first sentence of imprisonment?*
 - d. *Had previously had sentences involving some form of drug and alcohol rehabilitation, before being imprisoned for the first time?*

2. *In the last seven years what were the offences people received their first sentence of imprisonment for?*

My responses to questions 1(a) to 1(c) are included in Tables 1 to 3.

The information that you are requesting under 1(d) is court record. Under section 2(6)(a) of the OIA courts are not included covered by this Act. I am therefore refusing your request for this information under section 18(g)(i) of the OIA as the information is not held the Ministry.

The information that you request in question 2 are included in Table 4.

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

Yours sincerely



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

Ref: 69194

Table 1: Number of people sentenced to imprisonment in the last seven years, per year, and the average number of previous convictions for an imprisonable offence for this group per person (back to 1980), 2011 to 2017

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of people sentenced to prison	8,409	7,973	7,559	7,578	7,618	8,518	8,480
Average number of previous imprisonable convictions per person	12.8	13.0	13.3	13.6	13.9	14.0	14.4

Note for Table 1:

- Year is based on charge outcome date.
- Only convicted imprisonable offences prior to the person's sentencing date are counted.

Table 2: Number of people sentenced to imprisonment for the first time in the last seven years, per year, and the average number of previous convictions for this group per person (back to 1980), 2011 to 2017

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of people sentenced to prison for the first time	2,873	2,590	2,440	2,422	2,360	2,683	2,548
Average number of previous convictions per person	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.5	6.5	6.4

Notes for Table 2:

- Charge outcome year is the year the person was sentenced to prison.
- Only convicted offences prior to the person's first sentencing date are counted.

Table 3: Number of people sentenced to imprisonment for the first time in the last seven years, per year, and of those, the number who had a previous conviction for breaching a community based order (back to 1980), 2011 to 2017

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of people sentenced to prison for the first time	2,873	2,590	2,440	2,422	2,360	2,683	2,548
Number previously convicted of breach of community based order	1,171	995	947	855	914	1,141	980

Notes for Table 3:

- Charge outcome year is the year the person was sentenced to prison.
- Only convicted offences prior to the person's first sentencing date are counted.
- Breach of community service order convictions are defined as offences in the ANZOC group 1521 "Breach of community service order"

Table 4: Offence types (ANZSOC subdivisions) people received their first prison sentence for (according to their most serious offence)

ANZSOC subdivision code name
011: Murder
012: Attempted murder
013: Manslaughter and driving causing death
021: Assault
029: Other acts intended to cause injury
031: Sexual assault
032: Non-assaultive sexual offences
041: Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle
049: Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons
051: Abduction and kidnapping
052: Deprivation of liberty/false imprisonment
053: Harassment and threatening behaviour
061: Robbery
062: Blackmail and extortion
071: Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter
081: Motor vehicle theft and related offences
082: Theft (except motor vehicles)
083: Receive or handle proceeds of crime
084: Illegal use of property (except motor vehicles)
091: Obtain benefit by deception
092: Forgery and counterfeiting
093: Deceptive business/government practices
099: Other fraud and deception offences
101: Import or export illicit drugs
102: Deal or traffic in illicit drugs
103: Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs
104: Possess and/or use illicit drugs
109: Other illicit drug offences
112: Regulated weapons/explosives offences
121: Property damage
131: Disorderly conduct
132: Regulated public order offences
133: Offensive conduct
141: Driver licence offences
143: Regulatory driving offences
151: Breach of custodial order offences
152: Breach of community-based order
153: Breach of violence and non-violence orders
154: Offences against government operations
156: Offences against justice procedures
162: Public health and safety offences
163: Commercial/industry/financial regulation
169: Other miscellaneous offences

Notes for Table 4:

- The Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC) is used to categorise offences into 16 divisions, within which subdivisions and groups exist. More information on ANZSOC can be obtained from: abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1234.0