

August 2018

Official Information Act request: Thomas Beagle

NOTES

1. The information in this document was obtained from the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) database. While the information is considered correct at the date it was extracted (2 August 2018), it may be amended or reviewed at any time. This document contains information on referrals and drug seizures as a result of detector dog indications.

Drugs and prescription medicines

2. Drug statistics for the year 2018 are preliminary and may include substances suspected as being covered under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975.
3. When a person arrives in New Zealand carrying prescription medicines (other than controlled drugs) they must ensure:
 - they declare the possession of those medicines on their incoming passenger arrival card which is lawfully required, and inspected, by the New Zealand Customs Service; and
 - they have a copy of the prescription from a doctor, or a letter from a doctor stating that they are being treated with the medicine(s); and
 - they carry the medicine(s) in their original containers, and
 - they have a quantity not exceeding three months supply of prescription medicines (with the exception of oral contraceptives which can be supplied in six month quantities).
4. If any of the above criteria is not met, then Customs detains the medicines and records them as a prohibited drug interception.

Terminology

5. When Customs finds prohibited goods or goods that have been, undeclared, mis-declared or undervalued for revenue evasion purposes at the border, it is referred to as an 'interception'. From there Customs takes custody of goods, at which point they are 'detained'. Goods that are 'detained' can be either released back to the importer (usually when conditions/requirements have been met e.g. duty and GST paid, doctor's prescription/permit produced etc) or formally 'seized'. Seizure is a specific legal action that alters the legal status of the goods and instigates a sequence of legal requirements.
6. Goods which cross the border are either legitimate or prohibited (conditional or absolute). Prohibited goods include controlled drugs and prescription medicines, drug paraphernalia, objectionable material, weapons, copyright/trade mark goods (IPR), items containing endangered species (CITES), and items covered by the Customs Import Prohibition Order (CIPO).
7. If goods are intercepted or detained it is usually because:
 - a person failed to declare them
 - a person made an incorrect declaration or produced false or incorrect documents
 - they are prohibited or restricted
 - a person attempted to evade duty.

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Information:

Table 1: Referrals by detector dog indication, by passenger, for airports from 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2018

Airport	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All airports						
January	37	50	48	38	25	24
February	32	37	61	20	15	11
March	42	37	40	26	14	28
April	39	36	48	19	11	11
May	44	54	57	18	7	13
June	43	38	85	25	11	12
July	63	38	42	8	7	
August	29	45	28	11	9	
September	31	38	20	9	3	
October	41	21	24	7	11	
November	29	30	16	15	7	
December	41	41	28	14	21	
Air airports Total	471	465	497	210	141	99
Auckland						
January	21	43	46	31	13	13
February	24	27	46	14	10	5
March	24	21	37	18	8	16
April	25	29	38	14	10	4
May	23	46	51	11	5	5
June	34	30	71	15	8	3
July	36	28	38	3	4	
August	21	35	17	4	9	
September	20	30	18	4	2	
October	26	16	16	4	9	
November	18	21	14	10	4	
December	30	34	19	7	3	
Auckland Total	302	360	411	135	85	46
Christchurch						
January	7					9
February		1		2		4
March	4			2	3	8
April	6			1	1	7
May	1			1	2	3
June	2	1			1	6
July	2			1	2	
August	2	3	2			
September	2	1				
October		2	3		2	
November		3	1	2	3	
December		3		2	12	
Christchurch Total	26	14	6	11	26	37

Airport	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Queenstown						
January	3					
February					1	
March				2	1	1
May	1					
June				2	2	
July	6	5				
August			1			
September				1		
December					5	
Queenstown Total	10	5	1	5	9	1
Rotorua						
February			1			
Rotorua Total			1			
Wellington						
January	6	7	2	7	12	2
February	8	9	14	4	4	2
March	14	16	3	4	2	3
April	8	7	10	4		
May	19	8	6	6		5
June	7	7	14	8		3
July	19	5	4	4	1	
August	6	7	8	7		
September	9	7	2	4	1	
October	15	3	5	3		
November	11	6	1	3		
December	11	4	9	5	1	
Wellington Total	133	86	78	59	21	15

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Table 2: Referrals by dog indication, by baggage, for airports from 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2018

Airport	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All airports						
January	6	28	18	26	33	24
February	6	16	33	26	19	18
March	11	24	25	22	17	19
April	13	14	25	19	30	15
May	19	34	30	26	8	34
June	28	28	50	15	13	41
July	15	21	30	12	10	
August	32	25	40	10	5	
September	20	19	15	9	20	
October	24	23	23	7	15	
November	30	21	18	19	25	
December	18	26	29	15	19	
Air airports						
Total	222	279	336	206	214	151
Auckland						
January	2	19	17	18	24	11
February	5	15	26	23	7	13
March	9	21	21	19	7	13
April	7	10	22	18	22	7
May	16	27	28	19	4	12
June	23	20	46	10	6	14
July	6	18	29	5	4	
August	30	22	31	8	4	
September	13	14	15	3	17	
October	13	20	13	3	10	
November	25	18	15	9	12	
December	13	22	25	8	5	
Auckland Total	162	226	288	143	122	70
Christchurch						
January					4	10
February			3	2	3	3
March			2		3	4
April	1		2	1	8	6
May				4		11
June		3			2	22
July	1		1	2	1	
August		1	3			
September	3				1	
October			8		5	
November			3	3	9	
December	2	2		6	10	
Christchurch Total	7	6	22	18	46	56

Airport	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Queenstown						
January						1
February					7	
March					4	
June					4	
July	3	2			4	
September		1		4		
December					2	
Queenstown Total	3	3		4	21	1
Wellington						
January	4	9	1	8	5	2
February	1	1	4	1	2	2
March	2	3	2	3	3	2
April	5	4	1			2
May	3	7	2	3	4	11
June	5	5	4	5	1	5
July	5	1		5	1	
August	2	2	6	2	1	
September	4	4		2	2	
October	11	3	2	4		
November	5	3		7	4	
December	3	2	4	1	2	
Wellington Total	50	44	26	41	25	24

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Table 3: Positive drug dog indications (following referrals) at airports between 1 January 2013 and 30 June 2018

2013	
Breakdown by airport and month	Incidents
Auckland	16
Jan	1
Feb	3
Mar	1
Apr	1
Jun	2
Jul	2
Nov	4
Dec	2
Wellington	4
May	2
Oct	1
Dec	1
Grand Total	20

2014	
Breakdown by airport and month	Incidents
Auckland	23
Jan	3
Feb	4
Mar	2
May	9
Sep	2
Nov	2
Dec	1
Wellington	3
Jan	1
Feb	1
Sep	1
Grand Total	26

2015	
Breakdown by airport and month	Incidents
Auckland	14
Jan	2
Feb	1
Mar	2
Apr	2
May	1
Jun	5
Nov	1
Grand Total	14

2016	
Breakdown by airport and month	Incidents
Auckland	5
Jan	2
Feb	1
Mar	1
Apr	1
Wellington	2
Jan	2
Grand Total	7

2017	
Breakdown by airport and month	Incidents
Auckland	6
May	2
Aug	1
Oct	1
Dec	2
Wellington	2
Jan	1
Feb	1
Grand Total	8

2018

Note: For 2018 YTD (30 June 2018) there has been no dog indications for drugs at airports.

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