

21 June 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-10021

Ti Lamusse
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Dear Ti

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 1 April 2019 sent to Ministry of Justice. Question 1 of your request was transferred to New Zealand Police on 4 April 2019. You asked:

Please provide me with the total number of people under the age of 18 being arrested, broken down by year as far back as records permit. Please break this down by ethnicity and sentencing outcome. Please break this down by age group as well, if possible.

People can be arrested and taken into Police custody for an offence, as well as for their own safety, or arrested on behalf of another government agency. Sentencing is something that follows a conviction, which can follow only a prosecution. Not all people who are held in Police custody get prosecuted, convicted, or sentenced. The sentencing outcome of people held in Police custody cannot be provided.

New Zealand Police began keeping electronic custody records in 2008 (first a pilot and then rolled out nationwide in 2010). The number of custody instances for people who were aged 17 and younger at the time of being in Police custody, by year, and by ethnicity, is provided below. The data is from 14 November 2008 to 5 June 2019, so 2008 and 2019 years are incomplete. MELAA in the table below stands for Middle Eastern/Latin American/African.

Year in Custody	Ethnicity	0-12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	17 years
2008	Asian		1			1	9
2008	European			7	8	15	74
2008	Maori	3	4	16	38	49	154
2008	Pacific Peoples			8	9	10	68
2008	Unknown						4
2009	Asian		3	3	8	4	54
2009	European	3	8	53	71	145	432

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2009	Maori	23	49	177	298	464	1,251
2009	MELAA			2	1	3	10
2009	Pacific Peoples		6	48	66	138	438
2009	Unknown		1	3	2	2	16
2010	Asian	1	1	6	20	17	50
2010	European	16	47	122	210	282	926
2010	Maori	60	166	525	806	914	2,224
2010	MELAA			1	8	4	23
2010	Pacific Peoples	1	14	96	105	196	560
2010	Unknown	4	1	2	6	11	18
2011	Asian			11	35	42	131
2011	European	29	92	419	664	1,018	2,984
2011	Maori	135	406	1,201	1,884	2,043	4,747
2011	MELAA	3	2	7	8	25	72
2011	Pacific Peoples	7	24	185	342	551	1,202
2011	Unknown	2	3	11	13	18	52
2012	Asian	1	3	15	10	51	121
2012	European	34	105	478	767	989	3,144
2012	Maori	124	344	1,184	1,685	2,299	4,540
2012	MELAA	1	3	11	11	16	97
2012	Pacific Peoples	2	30	170	312	352	1,170
2012	Unknown		3	4	24	14	48
2013	Asian		3	4	29	14	116
2013	European	29	78	279	542	856	2,525
2013	Maori	103	270	1,115	1,612	1,836	4,690
2013	MELAA	1	1	13	18	19	57
2013	Pacific Peoples	4	27	114	290	353	849
2013	Unknown	3	2	4	5	19	37
2014	Asian			4	12	16	73
2014	European	36	63	296	441	665	2,003
2014	Maori	72	261	1,032	1,504	1,629	4,108
2014	MELAA	1	1	6	8	31	45
2014	Pacific Peoples	14	21	197	258	396	996
2014	Unknown	1	4	6	9	10	56
2015	Asian		1	21	3	23	97
2015	European	21	49	298	469	567	1,811
2015	Maori	107	239	1,157	1,697	1,900	4,166
2015	MELAA	3		16	20	15	43
2015	Pacific Peoples	4	27	262	323	345	1,270
2015	Unknown			4	6	8	22
2016	Asian	1	1	27	21	24	85
2016	European	15	36	317	497	568	1,479
2016	Maori	90	378	1,412	2,183	1,982	4,395
2016	MELAA	1		24	12	23	57
2016	Pacific Peoples	6	22	300	433	436	1,066
2016	Unknown			4	3	9	36
2017	Asian	3	3	6	72	28	41
2017	European	19	17	209	450	534	1,478
2017	Maori	86	328	1,301	1,757	1,994	3,614
2017	MELAA			5	1	6	77
2017	Pacific Peoples	2	41	162	294	292	929
2017	Unknown	1	1	3	6	7	20
2018	Asian		2		18	29	75

2018	European	4	22	253	332	489	1,087
2018	Maori	60	221	955	1,508	1,471	3,132
2018	MELAA				7	5	25
2018	Pacific Peoples	7	18	114	242	239	763
2018	Unknown	1	1	1	12	4	14
2019	Asian		3	2	1	6	25
2019	European	5	10	155	172	162	480
2019	Maori	34	87	353	537	536	1,030
2019	MELAA				1	6	18
2019	Pacific Peoples		2	29	49	90	237
2019	Unknown		1	4		3	12

Yours sincerely



Andrew Sissons
Acting Superintendent
Response and Operations