

15 MAY 2019

Danny Pickering

By email: fyi-request-9978-4fa2fa2d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Danny

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request dated 1 April 2019, in which you have asked for the following information:

1. The total number of legal aid applications and the outcome of those applications to be broken down by criminal and non-criminal cases, as far back as records permit and;
2. The total number of criminal prosecutions initiated per annum, as far back as records permit.

Your request has been referred to me for a response and is being managed in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

1. The total number of legal aid applications and the outcome of those applications, broken down by law type.

You requested the total number of legal aid applications and the outcome of those applications to be broken down by criminal and non-criminal cases going back as far as our records permit.

We emailed you on 18 April 2019, seeking a more specific timeframe for your data request. As we have not heard from you, we can confidently provide you with the information you have requested from July 2011 when the Legal Services Agency was disestablished and moved under the direction of the Minister of Justice.

The details of the total number of applications and the outcome of those applications is demonstrated in the table attached. Applications have been broken down by law type (criminal, family, civil, and Waitangi) rather than by criminal and non-criminal, as this is how applications are recorded in our system.

2. The total number of criminal prosecutions initiated per annum.

You requested the total number of criminal prosecutions initiated per annum dating back as far as our records permit. We have refused your request as this information does not exist as per section 18(e) of the OIA.

While we do not hold information on the total number of criminal prosecutions initiated per annum, we are able to provide the number of people charged by offence type. You can access this information under 'all charges and convicted charges' at the following link:

justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/justice-statistics/data-tables/#General

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response please contact Julia Goode, Team Leader for Media and Communications at media@justice.govt.nz or call (04) 918 8836.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review our decision under section 28(3) of the OIA. Contact details for the Office of the Ombudsman are:

Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10152
Wellington
Email: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracey Baguley', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tracey Baguley
Manager Legal Aid Services

Number of legal aid applications with decisions for the financial years 2011-2018

| Financial Year | Law Type | Approved | Ceased | Further Information | Interim Grant | Refused | Rejected | Withdrawn | Grand Total |
|------------------------|----------|---------------|------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2011/2012 | Criminal | 51,243 | 44 | | 59 | 6,090 | 2,674 | 375 | 60,485 |
| 2011/2012 | Family | 21,544 | 17 | | 25 | 2,038 | 442 | 1,362 | 25,428 |
| 2011/2012 | Civil | 1,635 | 109 | | 179 | 522 | 34 | 48 | 2,527 |
| 2011/2012 | Waitangi | 75 | | | | 48 | 1 | 28 | 152 |
| 2011/2012 Total | | 74,497 | 170 | | 263 | 8,698 | 3,151 | 1,813 | 88,592 |
| 2012/2013 | Criminal | 49,547 | 46 | | 61 | 5,246 | 2,578 | 366 | 57,844 |
| 2012/2013 | Family | 21,284 | 17 | | 46 | 1,762 | 315 | 1,204 | 24,628 |
| 2012/2013 | Civil | 1,911 | 104 | | 132 | 418 | 61 | 49 | 2,675 |
| 2012/2013 | Waitangi | 30 | | | | 14 | 1 | 19 | 64 |
| 2012/2013 Total | | 72,772 | 167 | | 239 | 7,440 | 2,955 | 1,638 | 85,211 |
| 2013/2014 | Criminal | 47,468 | 27 | | 64 | 4,780 | 2,205 | 393 | 54,937 |
| 2013/2014 | Family | 20,236 | 28 | | 48 | 1,654 | 228 | 1,010 | 23,204 |
| 2013/2014 | Civil | 1,298 | 135 | | 157 | 316 | 24 | 55 | 1,985 |
| 2013/2014 | Waitangi | 53 | | | | 8 | | 10 | 71 |
| 2013/2014 Total | | 69,055 | 190 | | 269 | 6,758 | 2,457 | 1,468 | 80,197 |
| 2014/2015 | Criminal | 49,703 | 51 | | 57 | 5,018 | 2,239 | 421 | 57,489 |
| 2014/2015 | Family | 17,338 | 15 | | 39 | 1,286 | 222 | 782 | 19,682 |
| 2014/2015 | Civil | 997 | 124 | | 131 | 285 | 12 | 30 | 1,579 |
| 2014/2015 | Waitangi | 61 | | | | 14 | 1 | 11 | 87 |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2014/2015 Total | 68,099 | 190 | 227 | 6,603 | 2,474 | 1,244 | 78,837 |
| 2015/2016 | Criminal | 46 | 59 | 5,091 | 2,479 | 518 | 62,322 |
| 2015/2016 | Family | 18 | 27 | 1,446 | 229 | 847 | 20,026 |
| 2015/2016 | Civil | 146 | 180 | 314 | 12 | 19 | 1,620 |
| 2015/2016 | Waitangi | 125 | | 20 | 1 | 18 | 164 |
| 2015/2016 Total | 72,662 | 210 | 266 | 6,871 | 2,721 | 1,402 | 84,132 |
| 2016/2017 | Criminal | 47 | 72 | 4,861 | 3,074 | 426 | 64,438 |
| 2016/2017 | Family | 22 | 18 | 1,274 | 185 | 719 | 19,584 |
| 2016/2017 | Civil | 77 | 211 | 181 | 10 | 25 | 1,531 |
| 2016/2017 | Waitangi | 197 | | 15 | | 8 | 220 |
| 2016/2017 Total | 74,545 | 146 | 301 | 6,331 | 3,269 | 1,178 | 85,773 |
| 2017/2018 | Criminal | 58 | 163 | 3,114 | 3,509 | 439 | 63,974 |
| 2017/2018 | Family | 16 | 43 | 1,103 | 100 | 652 | 18,987 |
| 2017/2018 | Civil | 55 | 274 | 148 | 23 | 13 | 1,690 |
| 2017/2018 | Waitangi | 196 | | 16 | | 2 | 234 |
| 2017/2018 Total | 75,134 | 129 | 480 | 4,381 | 3,632 | 1,106 | 84,885 |