

21 AUG 2019

Blair Jackson
fyi-request-10706-015a5e74@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Jackson

Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) of 9 July 2019 to the New Zealand Police. On 24 July 2019, your request was partially transferred to Ministry of Justice (Ministry) for response. The Ministry will be responding to the following questions:

1. *How many convictions were made in Southland for possessing methamphetamine from January 1 2018 to July 9 2019?*
2. *How many convictions were made in Southland for distributing methamphetamine from January 1 2018 to July 9 2019?*
3. *How many convictions were made in Southland for manufacturing methamphetamine from January 1 2018 to July 9 2019?*
4. *How many convictions were made in Clutha for possessing methamphetamine from January 1 2018 to July 9 2019?*
5. *How many convictions were made in Clutha for distributing methamphetamine from January 1 2018 to July 9 2019?*
6. *How many convictions were made in Clutha for manufacturing methamphetamine from January 1 2018 to July 9 2019?*

Please note that the Ministry cannot provide the data you have requested for 2019. This is because conviction and sentencing data is subject to the Tier 1 Official Statistics protocols. The data up to 30 June 2019 will be included in the next release which is scheduled for September 2019. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA as the information requested is or will soon be publicly available. For more information on the Tier 1 Official Statistics, please visit: archive.stats.govt.nz/about_us/who-we-are/home-statisphere/tier-1.aspx

In response to questions 1 to 3 for 2018, please refer to Table 1. Table 1 provides information on the number of convicted charges for methamphetamine offences in Southland Justice Service area, by offence type.

In response to questions 4 to 6 for 2018, please note that the Ministry does not hold this information for the Clutha district. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the OIA. However you may be interested in the number of convicted charges for methamphetamine offences in the Otago Justice Service area. Please refer to Table 2 which provides information on the number of convicted charges for methamphetamine offences in Otago, by offence type.

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response please contact Julia Goode, Team Leader, Media, by calling (04) 918 8836 or 021 636 416; 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.

Chris King

Group Manager (Acting), Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

Ref: 76770

Table 1: Number of convictions for methamphetamine offences in Southland, by offence type, during 2018

Justice Service Area (JSA)	Offence type (ANZSOC subdivision)	2018
Southland	101: Import or export illicit drugs	0
	102: Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	77
	103: Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	0
	104/109: Possess and/or use illicit drugs (including utensils)	38
Total		115

Notes:

The Southland JSA consists of the following District Courts: Alexandra, Gore, Invercargill, and Queenstown.

Table 2: Number of convictions for methamphetamine offences in Otago, by offence type, during 2018

Justice Service Area (JSA)	Offence type (ANZSOC subdivision)	2018
Otago	101: Import or export illicit drugs	12
	102: Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	59
	103: Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	0
	104/109: Possess and/or use illicit drugs (including utensils)	87
Total		158

Notes:

The Otago JSA consists of the following District Courts: Dunedin, Oamaru and Timaru.

Notes for Tables 1 and 2:

- This data counts the number of convicted charges not the number of people convicted, as a person can have multiple convictions.
- We do not have separate information for the Clutha district.
- Methamphetamine offences include offences in ANZSOC division 10: Illicit drug offences with the keyword "methamphetamine" in their description.
- 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
- ANZSOC division 10 can be split into five subdivisions and offences for the different drug types are categorised across the subdivisions:
 - Import or export illicit drugs
 - Deal or traffic in illicit drugs
 - Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs
 - Possess and/or use illicit drugs
 - Other illicit drug offences (which includes offences related to drug utensils).
- For this 'Data possession and/or use' and 'Other illicit drug offences' are combined into a single category: 'Possess and/or use illicit drugs (including utensils).'
- This data is extracted based on the charge outcome year of each charge (e.g. the year that a charge is convicted). Calendar years start in January and end in December. Financial years start in July and end in June.
- Information about Justice Service Areas can be found here: justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/justice-statistics/data-tables#General