



31 October 2013

Daniel Thomas
Auckland

Via email: fyi-request-1220-d5d055d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Thomas

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - DRUGS AT CRIME SCENES

I refer to your email dated 16 October 2013 in which you requested "...the following chapter from the Police Manual: *Drugs at crime scenes*."

The 'Drugs at crime scenes' section of the Police Manual is reproduced on the following pages.

You will notice that some of the text in the chapter is in underlined blue type. This text links to other information in the Police Manual, which has not been provided to you.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request you have the right to complain to the Office of the Ombudsmen and seek an investigation and review of my decision.

Yours sincerely

PP
R T Drew
Detective Superintendent
National Criminal Investigations Group
Police National Headquarters
Wellington



Drugs at crime scenes

Introduction

This section:

- ♦ outlines the main types of drugs found in New Zealand
- ♦ provides guidance on the recovery and packaging of drugs at crime scenes for analysis.

Related information

Refer to the [National Clandestine Laboratories Response Team Standard Operating Procedures](#) in the Police Manual for further information about investigating clandestine laboratories manufacturing drugs.

Refer to the [Drugs](#) chapter in the Police Manual for information about:

- ♦ offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975
- ♦ procedures to follow when investigating drug offences
- ♦ searching people for drugs
- ♦ advice about drug raids.

Types of drugs found in New Zealand

Drugs encountered in New Zealand include:

- ♦ morphine including morphine sulphate tablets (MST), methadone and heroin
- ♦ cannabis oil, by soaking or percolating cannabis in an alcohol solution
- ♦ cannabis leaf / plant material
- ♦ cannabis oil
- ♦ amphetamine based - MDMA (ecstasy tablets), methamphetamine (powder and crystal)
- ♦ LSD
- ♦ GHB / GBL
- ♦ ephedrine and pseudoephedrine (tablet / capsule / liquid)
- ♦ cocaine.

Recovery and packaging of drugs

When recovering drugs:

- ♦ always wear gloves
- ♦ be careful of syringes (if you get a needle prick, milk the wound and seek medical advice)
- ♦ do not taste or sniff a drug or allow powder or liquid drugs to come into contact with the skin
- ♦ preserve drugs and any packaging for fingerprints and DNA and photography.

Procedures

Use this table as a guide when recovering and packaging drugs and associated paraphernalia.

Item	Actions
Powders or tablets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Pack in self sealing plastic bags (to avoid loss or contamination) inside a standard drugs envelope.♦ Pack powders which may cause cross contamination in nylon bags with swan-necked seals (see Accelerant section).
Syringes / glass pipes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Pack in rigid plastic/sharps containers.♦ If needles are seized, ensure they are safe for handling. Cover attached needles with needle guards.

Note: For health and safety reasons it is ESR policy not to analyse



Drugs at crime scene, Continued...

Version: 2.0

	syringe needles.										
Plant material / mushrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dry material before packaging in drugs envelopes or paper sacks (not plastic). ◆ To facilitate later fingerprinting, remove all plant material from foil wrapped packages. ◆ Count whole plants (leave roots attached) and remove soil. (The analyst will identify whole plants but record only the weight of the plant material above the roots). 										
Cannabis plantations or other bulk seizures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Take photographs. ◆ Count the plants. ◆ Measure the shortest, tallest and average plant. ◆ Take samples as follows and place each in a separate drugs envelope. 										
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">For plantations of...</th> <th style="text-align: left;">take...</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>up to 10 plants</td> <td>a leaf sample from each plant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>between 11 to 20 plants</td> <td>ten random leaf samples</td> </tr> <tr> <td>between 21 and 100 plants</td> <td>a random leaf sample from half the plants</td> </tr> <tr> <td>more than 100 plants</td> <td>a random leaf sample from 50 plants.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	For plantations of...	take...	up to 10 plants	a leaf sample from each plant	between 11 to 20 plants	ten random leaf samples	between 21 and 100 plants	a random leaf sample from half the plants	more than 100 plants	a random leaf sample from 50 plants.
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<p>Note: Samples must be representative of the bulk and should be at least 28 grams to satisfy a charge of presumption for supply.</p>											
Solvents / solvent soaked plant material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Leave plant material found soaking in liquid in the liquid. ◆ Place liquids in sealed tins or glass containers to avoid evaporation or loss - not plastic containers. ◆ If large volumes are seized submit a sample only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clean solvent 50 - 100 mls - dark green solvent not more than 50mls ◆ Put plant material damp from solvents in sealed glass containers or nylon bags with swan-necked seal (see accelerants section) to limit evaporation or loss. 										
Items for drug residues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Submit item if possible. ◆ If swabbed in situ use cotton swabs (as for DNA) but do not cut the holding tube. Also submit a control unused swab. 										
Methamphetamine Laboratories	These should be dealt with by the specialised clan lab team .										