

24 June 2020

REF NUMBER: IR-01-20-11052

Daniel Farrell  
[fyi-request-12584-54406eb1@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12584-54406eb1@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Daniel Farrell

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 7 April 2020 for information relating to fleeing driver events.

You requested:

1. *Between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2019, how many police pursuits were undertaken?*
2. *Of those police pursuits, how many:*
  - a. *were abandoned?;*

Information on the number of fleeing driver events that have resulted in New Zealand Police initiating a pursuit can be found on New Zealand Police's website at: <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/road-policing-driver-offence-data-january-2009-december-2019>.

As such, this part of your request has been refused pursuant to section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 in that the information requested is publicly available.

- b. *resulted directly in the arrest of a person for crimes committed outside of the pursuit itself?*

This part of your request has been refused pursuant to section 18(g)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982 in that the information requested is not held by Police and Police has no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

3. *Between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2019, how many traffic stops were undertaken?*

Police does not record every instance where a vehicle is stopped by a Police officer. As such, this part of your request has been refused pursuant to section 18(g)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982 in that the information requested is not held by Police and Police

#### **Police National Headquarters**

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.  
Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. [www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

has no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department of Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

However, Police can provide you with the number of events recorded as vehicle turnovers; this is where an officer logs to have pulled over a vehicle and is making enquiries, for example in relation to detecting a driving offence. Note that not all vehicle turnovers are recorded. Other vehicle stops, including those conducted at checkpoints, for example to undertake compulsory breath screening tests, are not recorded. The number of recorded vehicle turnovers can be found in Table One below.

**Table One: Vehicle Turnover Events Recorded between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2019.**

Calendar Year	Vehicle Turnovers
2015	619,502
2016	693,263
2017	688,736
2018	673,228
2019	707,290

4. *Of those traffic stops, how many resulted in the use of patrol dog teams?*
5. *Of those uses of patrol dog teams, how many resulted in a positive indication for a breach of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975?*

This part of your request has been refused pursuant to section 18(g)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982 in that the information requested is not held by Police and Police has no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department of Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

Please note this reply contains provisional data which is drawn from a dynamic operational database. This is subject to change as new information is recorded or recoded.

You have the right, under section 28 (3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



**Acting Superintendent Gini Welch**  
National Manager  
National Road Policing Centre