

13 May 2021

REF NUMBER: IR-01-21-11783

Thomas Holmes

[fyi-request-15129-92e1877c@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15129-92e1877c@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Thomas

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 11 April 2021 for information relating to fleeing driver events.

You requested:

*A spreadsheet containing the dates, times, event numbers, district, area, closure type e.g. 3T, and outcome for all vehicles failing to stop, or failing to remain for Police between 1 January 2015 and 11 April 2021. Specifically, I would like to know for each event whether a pursuit was initiated, a pursuit was not initiated, and whether or not the vehicle was stolen or otherwise wanted by the Police.*

Please find attached a spreadsheet sourced from the Fleeing Driver Notification Database for the period of 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2021. Please note that data for April 2021 is not complete and therefore, not yet available.

Regarding outcomes for fleeing driver events, you have specified you would like to know 'for each event whether a pursuit was initiated, a pursuit was not initiated, and whether or not the vehicle was stolen or otherwise wanted by the Police'.

The Fleeing Driver Notification Database has some limitations. Before December 2020, a fleeing driver notification was previously completed only when a driver failed to stop for Police and a pursuit was subsequently commenced.

The Fleeing Driver Policy was revised in December 2020 which now sees police officers completing a fleeing driver notification in instances where a driver fails to stop but no pursuit takes place. Police currently has no way of reliably distinguishing these events without manually reviewing each record. Therefore, data from December 2020 onwards includes events where a driver failed to stop and no pursuit was commenced. A process to distinguish these events is under development.

For your information, 3T is not a closure type. A 3T is a record of activity that refers to a vehicle and/or person stop. Records of vehicle stops (3T) are captured in a separate system that is not linked to the Fleeing Driver Database.

#### **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)

For fleeing driver events where the number plate could be identified at the time of the event, it is likely that the officer(s) signalling the driver to stop would be made aware by the Police Communications Centres whether the vehicle was stolen and this would be recorded as such. Fleeing vehicles that are later identified as stolen may not be recorded as such in the database.

Additionally, whether the vehicle or driver was otherwise wanted by Police is not recorded as a variable in the database. To ascertain this information would require manually querying the number plate, or registered owner of the vehicle (who may or may not be the fleeing driver), in a separate Police system. Accordingly, this part of your request has been refused pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Your request for information relating to 'whether a pursuit was not initiated' prior to December 2020 has been refused pursuant to section 18(g)(i) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by Police and Police has no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department.

Additionally, your request for information relating to 'whether a pursuit was not initiated' post December 2020 has been refused pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

I trust that this information is satisfactory in answering your request. You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



**Superintendent Steve Greally**  
Director: National Road Policing Centre