

03 June 2021

Ref: IR-01-21-16693

Oscar  
fyi-request-15565-6fa62cb1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Oscar,

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), dated 26 May 2021, in which you requested:

*I request a breakdown of the number of different cryptocurrencies (Bitcoin etc) Seized by police (including reason for being seized) Currently held (in possession) by the police Sold by the police (including price) For the past 5 years.*

My response to your request is as follows:

1. The type of cryptocurrencies restrained by the Financial Crime Group is not specifically recorded. We only record cryptocurrency in terms of an asset category.
2. Assets restrained by the Financial Crime Group are not held by the New Zealand Police but are placed in the custody of the Official Assignee. To answer your question more accurately, I have included a table below which breaks down the value and number of cryptocurrency restraints obtained by Police for the past 5 years.

**Cryptocurrency Restrained by Police for the Past 5 Financial Years**

Financial Year Restrained	Estimated Asset Value	Number of Restraints
2016-17	\$1,327.50	2
2017-18	\$218,061.74	2
2018-19	\$16,500.00	1
2019-20	\$31,401,861.49	3
2020-21	\$324,321.80	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31,962,072.53</b>	<b>10</b>

These assets were subject to restraint where the main predicate offence related to Methamphetamine, MDMA/Ecstasy, and Money Laundering activity.

Please see table below for this breakdown:

**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

### Cryptocurrency Restraints by Offence Type for the Past 5 Financial Years

Offence type	Estimated Asset Value	Number of Forfeitures
Methamphetamine	\$ 500,067.24	6
Money laundering	\$ 31,401,861.49	3
MDMA/Ecstasy	\$ 60,143.80	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 31,962,072.53</b>	<b>10</b>

3. By assets sold by the Police, it sounds like you are referencing assets that are forfeited. These assets are sold by the Official Assignee and the proceeds are forfeited to the Crown under the Proceeds of Crime Fund. As such, I have provided you with a table of cryptocurrencies that have been forfeited for the past 5 years, and their asset values.

### Cryptocurrency Forfeited by Police for the Past 5 Financial Years

Financial Year Forfeited	Estimated Asset Value	Number of Forfeitures
2016-17	\$ -	0
2017-18	\$ -	0
2018-19	\$7,804.00	1
2019-20	\$219,389.24	4
2020-21	\$28,545,745.27	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,772,938.51</b>	<b>7</b>

These assets were subject to forfeiture where the main predicate offence related to Methamphetamine, MDMA/Ecstasy, and Money Laundering activity.

Please see table below for this breakdown:

### Cryptocurrency Forfeitures by Offence Type for the Past 5 Financial Years

Offence Type	Estimated Asset Value	Number of Forfeitures
Methamphetamine	\$ 227,193.24	5
MDMA/Ecstasy	\$ 60,143.80	1
Money laundering	\$ 28,485,601.47	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 28,772,938.51</b>	<b>7</b>

The data supplied is valid as at 01 June 2021. All figures are to be considered estimates only.

The 2020/21 financial year is still in progress and due to close 30 June 2021.

If you are not satisfied with any aspect of the decisions made in this response, you are entitled to complain to the Ombudsman and seek an investigation and review.

Yours sincerely,



**William Peoples**  
Director: Financial Crime Group  
New Zealand Police