



15 June 2021

REFERENCE: 01-21-16694

Oscar
fyi-request-15566-c97df00f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Oscar

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your email request dated 26 May 2021 in which you requested:

Number of devices that police wanted access to in regards to a search and were not assisted with (refusal to provide PIN number/password). Section 130 of the search and surveillance act 2012.

Of the seized devices (where the pin/password wasn't provided), the number of devices that were able to be accessed/unlocked by other means such as brute force, external tools or hacking etc.

On 8 June 2021 you clarified that the period 2016 to 2020 was relevant to your request.

I have considered your request in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Digital devices cover a wide range of devices including but not limited to computers, removable media, digital cameras, mobile phones, smart watches, SIM cards, gaming consoles, and any other electronic device capable of storing data.

New Zealand Police has four Digital Forensic Unit (DFU) laboratories with trained analysts, and Digital First Responders (DFRs) in each of the 12 police districts.

Both DFUs and DFRs have tools to image and extract data from devices, with mobile phones being the most common.

From 2016 to 2020, the DFUs dealt with a total of 2116 devices that were recorded as being non-examinable due to being pin / password / locked. This number does not necessarily correlate to the number of instances of Section 130 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012 being invoked, as there generally would not be a separate charge laid per device.

Police National Headquarters

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In respect of your second query, Police does not record the number of devices where the pin/password wasn't provided that were subsequently able to be accessed / unlocked. Accordingly, your request is refused pursuant to section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by Police and I have no grounds to believe it is held by another agency.

If you are not satisfied with the response to your request, you have the right to refer the matter to the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Dalziel', written over a horizontal line.

Detective Senior Sergeant Greg Dalziel
High Tech Crime Group
Police National Headquarters