

22 March 2022

Liz Simmons
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Tēnā koe Liz

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 21 February 2022, in which you asked for information relating to the Wellington protests.

My response to each of your questions can be found below.

The number of complaints made about the NZ Police due their lack of law enforcement on the anti-mandate protesters in Wellington.

Below are the total number of complaints, broken down by use of force, or inaction, up to 21 February 2022.

Complaints received	Use of force	Inaction	Total complaints
9/02/2022	1	1	2
10/02/2022	68	1	69
11/02/2022	112	1	123
12/02/2022	23	2	25
13/02/2022	5	5	10
14/02/2022	10	14	24
15/02/2022	3	16	19
16/02/2022	3	6	9
17/02/2022	0	12	12
18/02/2022	3	36	39

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

Complaints received	Use of force	Inaction	Total complaints
19/02/2022	1	21	22
20/02/2022	2	11	13
21/02/2022	4	3	7
TOTAL	235	129	374

The number and sections of laws, that the police are aware of, that have been broken by the protestors that they have chosen not to take enforcement action on.

To be able to answer this part of your request Police would need to manually review footage taken and ask police officers that worked the protests to form an opinion on what offences may have occurred when an arrest was not made. There is no obligation to create information in order to respond to an OIA request. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under s18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held and Police has no reason to believe it is held by another agency.

Lastly, I request the number of complaints made by the Wellington public that NZ police have received regarding the protestors.

Members of the public can express their dissatisfaction or make a formal complaint to Police through a number of channels, for example: through the online complaints portal or by entering any Police station and making a complaint over the counter.

Police would need to do a manual search of each of these complaints to determine which related to the protestors, and there would be no easy way of being able to determine if the complainants are Wellington based or from other parts of New Zealand without contacting them to clarify. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under s18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research; and s18(g) of the OIA, the information is not held, and Police has no reason to believe it is held by another agency.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

David Greig
 Superintendent – Major Operations Centre
 New Zealand Police