

22 March 2024

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Tēnā koe Kitty

### ***Request for information***

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 25 February 2024, in which you asked for information regarding the National Gang List and organised criminal groups.

My response to each part of your request can be found below.

#### *1. The current National Gang List held by the Gang Harm Insights Centre*

The National Gang List (NGL) is an intelligence tool that enables the Gang Harm Insights Centre (GHIC) and partner agencies to develop insights into the harms caused by, to, and within the gangs recorded on it.

The GHIC records patched and prospect members of New Zealand Adult Gangs (NZAG) on the NGL. The GHIC established the NGL in 2016 as a means for understanding the national gang picture in New Zealand. The NGL is an *indicator of knowledge*, its primary purpose is not to count gang membership numbers or to be a reporting tool, instead, the information is collected for the purpose of maintaining oversight of the gang environment, to enhance our understanding of the scale of social harm caused by gangs, and to support the identification of prevention and intervention opportunities.

Please refer to Table 1 which provides the most current numbers of patched and prospect gang members on the NGL, as of 29 February 2024.

**Table 1: Number of NGL members by Police District, as of 29 February 2024**

<b><i>Police District</i></b>	<b><i>Number of members</i></b>
<i>Auckland City</i>	365
<i>Bay of Plenty</i>	1628
<i>Canterbury</i>	741
<i>Central</i>	870
<i>Counties/Manukau</i>	1001
<i>Eastern</i>	1382
<i>Northland</i>	391
<i>Southern</i>	267
<i>Tasman</i>	211
<i>Waikato</i>	963
<i>Waitematā</i>	529
<i>Wellington</i>	1099
<b><i>NGL Total</i></b>	<b>9447</b>

2. (a) *The criteria used by the GHIC to classify organisations, associations, or groups of persons as gangs, for inclusion on the National Gang List.*

*(b) If the NGL is updated by means other than secondary legislation to the Prohibition of Gang Insignia in Government Premises Act 2013, please clarify this process and the parties that are involved in the classification of new groups as gangs.*

The GHIC classifies a gang as a group with a structure and collective rules or codes, which also meets all of the following criteria:

- Five or more members
- Share a common name
- Cause harm to the community through criminal offending
- Have one or more common identifiers.

3. (a) *A current list of organised criminal groups held by Police and/or relevant agencies for the practical purposes of policing, pursuant to the enforcement of the Crimes Act 1961 and other legislation which references the definition laid out in section 98A(2).*

*(b) Clarification as to which parties are responsible for the classification of groups as organised criminal groups.*

For the purposes of section 98A(2) of the Crimes Act 1961, an organised crime group is not predetermined or designated, instead it is proven by evidencing in court that a group of 3 or more people have committed the offences as laid out in parts (a), (b), (c), and (d) of the section.

Police does not designate organised crime groups, though it may label a group as an *organised criminal group* if it meets the definition laid out in section 98A(2) of the Crimes Act 1961. However, Police does not maintain a list of groups that have been labelled in this way, therefore your request for a list is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held by Police.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note that as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police proactively releases some information and documents that may be of interest to the public. An anonymised version of this response may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Yours sincerely



**Julia Smith**  
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New Zealand Police