

20 February 2025

Bruce

[fyi-request-29849-5e9c567b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-29849-5e9c567b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Bruce

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 23 January 2025 in which you asked:

*I request all information held by NZ Police that relates to the costs paid to all private towing or storage sites by NZ Police for impounded vehicles for the calendar year 2024.*

*Ideally, the breakdown of costs would show a breakdown in figures for each Police district. Additionally, I would hope to receive figures that show how many impounded vehicles were not reclaimed by the registered owner, the average length of impound, and the longest a vehicle was impounded.*

I refer you to Table 1 included with my reply for a breakdown of the costs by district that Police has incurred for towing and storage related expenses in the 2024 calendar year. Please note that these figures include costs for towing crashed vehicles, impounded vehicles, and towage of Police vehicles.

Vehicle impoundment periods are specified in the Land Transport Act 1998 and are dependent upon the circumstances. Impoundment periods can be for 12 hours, 10 days, 28 days, or six months. After the impound period expires, vehicles are either released or, if not claimed, disposed of by the towing and storage operator.

Police does not maintain a centralised database that records all vehicle impoundments. As the information requested is held in individual files and not readily available, it would require considerable effort to assemble. I am therefore refusing the remainder of your request under section 18(f) of the OIA as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

If you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request, you have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to ask the Ombudsman to review my decisions. Information on how to do this is available online at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely



**Superintendent Steve Greally**

Director: Road Policing

**Police National Headquarters**

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**Table 1: Total costs paid to Towing and Storage operators by Police in the 2024 calendar year.**

<b>District</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Northland	\$90,945
Waitematā	\$42,090
Auckland City	\$66,024
Counties/Manukau	\$69,701
Tāmaki Makaurau Deployment Group*	\$59,200
Waikato	\$148,655
Bay of Plenty	\$154,999
Central	\$142,336
Eastern	\$26,597
Wellington	\$35,516
Tasman	\$62,967
Canterbury	\$156,257
Southern	\$75,303
PNHQ and Service Centres	\$158,552
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,289,142</b>

\*Please note that the Tāmaki Makarau Deployment Group is a separate group that provides policing services across the three greater Auckland districts.