

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 2 March 2026 10:20 am

To: [REDACTED] Phil O'Sullivan [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Law and order story

Mōrena

I can add that we had 12 formal complaints about the story – alleging bias, inaccuracy and lack of fairness – most complained under Balance. This is not a huge number in terms of complaints – we could have 100- 150 complaints about stories (particularly stories about *1News Kantar* poll results and economics) last election.

There were three themes for Benedict's story – 'a gang law beat up,' showing gangs or regalia, and not mentioning the 49,000 fewer victims.

1. *Bias - gang law beat up*
2. *2- Opotiki – showing gangs there*
3. *Showing gang patches*
4. *Bias made no reference to National lowering crime rates*
5. *Bias- govt announces 49,00 fewer victims*
6. *Bias – gang numbers*
7. *Bias – govt announces 49,000 fewer victims*
8. *Balance – how about reporting on some positive news*
9. *Bias 49,00 fewer victims*
10. *No reporting in drop in crime*
11. *Cherry picking an aspect of released data*
12. *Reduction of crime 49,000 not mentioned.*

The complaints about not mentioning the reduced victim numbers – are almost word for word

Mark Mitchell's Facebook post.

If we do believe that the story lacked balance then that can be remedied [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

For what it's worth I thought the gang story is in the public interest, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

in terms of the Balance standard that's not the only time it can happen.

Please let me know if you need more,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]