

29 April 2026

William Rea  
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Our ref: OIA 131365

Tēnā koe William

### **Official Information Act request: Cannabis possession charge outcomes**

Thank you for your email of 27 March 2026 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry), requesting data on cannabis possession charge outcomes under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Specifically, you have requested:

*To understand the full picture of court outcomes for cannabis possession charges, I request the following information for each calendar year from 2016 to 2025 inclusive, and specifically for the offence of unlawful possession or use of cannabis (ANZSOC Division 09 – unlawful possession or use of drugs, cannabis-related):*

*The total number of finalised charges, together with a complete breakdown by charge outcome, using the exact categories in your “All finalised charges” table, or any equivalent more detailed categories you hold. Please include, at minimum:*

*Convicted*

*Withdrawn by the prosecution*

*Dismissed*

*Discharged without conviction*

*Acquitted / not proved*

*Any other outcome category held*

*The same information as above, but counted by number of people, that is, unique individuals with one or more finalised cannabis possession charges in each year, and how many of those people received each outcome.*

*If the Ministry holds any further information, even in aggregate form, about the subset of “not proved”, withdrawn, or dismissed cannabis possession cases where a medicinal cannabis prescription, authorisation, or certificate was provided or cited as a reason for the outcome, please provide those numbers for the same period.*

*If any of the above information is already contained in the published Excel tables, please provide the exact table and sheet references, together with the extracted figures for cannabis possession only. If any part of this request would require substantial manual collation, please let me know as soon as possible so I can narrow the request.*

*I would prefer the response in electronic format, preferably Excel.*

In response to your request, please refer to Tables 1 and 2 attached:

- **Table 1** provides the number of finalised charges for cannabis offences under the ANZSOC subdivision 'Unlawful possession or use of drugs', broken down by charge outcome and calendar year, between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2025.
- **Table 2** provides the number of people with finalised charges for cannabis offences under the ANZSOC subdivision 'Unlawful possession or use of drugs', broken down by charge outcome and calendar year, between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2025.

The data has been provided as an Excel spreadsheet so that you can filter the data as needed, on the understanding that you do not alter the data in any way.

Please ensure the table notes are read before considering the data provided. The data is extracted from a live dataset, which means it may differ from other published data.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [Official Information Act responses | New Zealand Ministry of Justice](#).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28 of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by phone on: 0800 802 602, by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz), or via the webform: [Make a complaint \(for members of the public\) | Ombudsman New Zealand](#).

Nāku noa, nā



Jacquelyn Shannon  
**Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery Group**