



12/5937

24 January 2013

Graham Edgeler  
[fyi-request-691-c83f0b97@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-691-c83f0b97@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Graham,

I am writing in response to your request received by email on 26 November 2012 regarding drink driving information.

I have considered your request in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982. Please find below the responses to the information requested.

You have asked for the most recent calendar year for which we have information available. Data for the 2012 calendar year is incomplete so the information provided is for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011.

**1. How many breath alcohol screening tests were conducted?**

In the 2011 calendar year Police conducted 2,354,863 compulsory breath tests and 1,108,228 mobile breath tests.

**2. How many breath alcohol screening tests resulted in indications the driver might be over the limit?**

The number of failed screening tests (i.e. where it is indicated that the driver might be over the limit) is not recorded. This part of your request is refused pursuant to Section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982, in that the information is not held.

**3. How many evidential breath alcohol tests were conducted?**

The number of evidential breath alcohol tests conducted is not recorded. This part of your request is refused pursuant to Section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982, in that the information is not held.

**4. How many evidential breath alcohol tests returned a result that the driver was over the applicable limit?**

As the number of evidential breath alcohol tests conducted is not recorded, this information is not available. This part of your request is refused pursuant to Section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982, in that the information is not held.

I can advise that in the 2011 calendar year there were 19,664 proceedings against drivers aged 20 or older for breath alcohol offences. There were 5,672 proceedings against drivers aged under 20 for breath alcohol offences.

This data will not include those drivers who failed an evidential breath test and then elected that a blood sample be taken, nor those who refused to perform an evidential alcohol test.

**Safer Communities Together**

**POLICE PROSECUTION SERVICE**

180 Molesworth Street, PO Box 3017, DX SX11149, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Telephone: (04) 474 9499 Facsimile: (04) 472 5159 [www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

A proceeding is an action that Police may take for an offence. Clearances of proceedings include (but are not limited to) Prosecution, Youth Aid, or Warning. It is possible for more than one proceeding to relate to a single offence, i.e. where a proceeding is cleared as a prosecution, and the charge is withdrawn and then re-laid. All proceedings cleared as prosecution are included, regardless of the court outcome.

**5. How many drivers over the breath alcohol limit requested a blood alcohol test be conducted?**

The number of drivers who request a blood alcohol test is not recorded. This part of your request is refused pursuant to Section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982, in that the information is not held.

I can advise that in the 2011 calendar year there were 4,728 proceedings against drivers aged 20 or older for blood alcohol offences. There were 576 proceedings against drivers aged under 20 for blood alcohol offences.

This data will include offences where a blood sample was taken at hospital after a person was involved in a crash.

**6. How many blood tests returned results indicating the person was over the applicable blood alcohol limit, and how many were returned indicating the person was under the applicable blood alcohol limit?**

Police data systems do not match the blood test results to the age of the driver. Therefore it is not possible to say if the blood level result was over or under the applicable blood alcohol limit for that person. This part of your request is refused pursuant to Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982, in that the information cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

Please note that this reply contains provisional data which is drawn from a dynamic operational database. This is subject to change as new information is continually recorded or recoded.

You have the right to make a complaint under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982 to the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of the aspect of your request which I have refused.

Yours sincerely



Superintendent Carey Griffiths  
National Manager: Road Policing