

08 MAR 2019

Zane Collins
Fyi-request-9500-88c333ac@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Zane,

Official Information Act 1982 request

I acknowledge your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 1 February 2019 regarding strangulation statistics that was transferred from the New Zealand Police on 8 February 2019.

Your requests and my responses are set out below.

- 1) *I would like to request the detailed statistics of the strangulation rates which was published on the news today (refer to the link below).*
- 2) *I need the total number of strangulation charges and also whether all these 250+ preparators were convicted or not?*
- 3) *Have if any drugs, substance or alcohol abuse were the cause of any of these incidents?*
- 4) *I require the stats to be categorized by gender, age group, area and if any substantial evidence was provided.*

On 3 December 2018 phase one of the Family Violence Amendment Act 2018 came in to force. Phase one introduced three new offences, one of those is strangulation. The offence was introduced to cover a gap in the current offence framework and recognise the particularly serious nature of the behaviour.

Strangulation is used as a tactic to control a partner, instilling fear by showing the victim that the perpetrator has the ability to kill. A specific offence better protects victims of family violence. For more information go to the Ministry of Justice website at www.justice.govt.nz.

In response to question 1, as of 31 January 2019, 291 strangulation charges have been filed. This is the number of charges filed, not the number of people charged.

In response to questions 2 and 4, conviction and sentencing statistics are subject to a range of protocols governing their public release. The most recently released data covered the period to the end of June 2018. Because of this, we are unable to release the data for subsequent months that you have requested.

Conviction and sentencing statistics are released six monthly as part of the Ministry's general release of Tier 1 statistics. The 2018 calendar year conviction and sentencing statistics will be available at the end of March 2019 and cannot be released prior to that date.

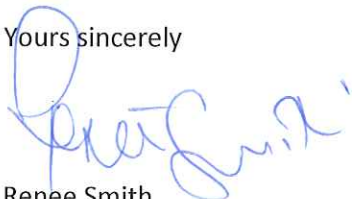
In response to question 3, information relating to drugs, substance or alcohol abuse being identified as the cause of incidents of strangulation is not included in the Ministry's statistical reporting.

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response please contact Julia Goode, Acting Team Leader Media and External Relations on 021 636416 or; or email media@justice.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by writing to PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143; calling 0800 802 602; or emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

I trust this information assists.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Renee Smith', is written over the typed name.

Renee Smith

Acting Group Manager, Commissioning and Service Improvement