

2 April 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-4904

Jessica Lim
Email: fyi-request-9514-8ab8bd7f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Jessica

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 4 February 2019. You asked:

- *How many people have been arrested for the non-payment of fines?*
- *How many people have been arrested for the non-payment of fines in total? (Whether it be primary, secondary, tertiary, etc offences)?*

While Police have the powers of arrest, enforcement of fine payment does not sit with Police alone. Based on your previous requests to Inland Revenue and Department of Corrections, you are well aware of this, but more information on enforcement of fines can be found here: <https://www.justice.govt.nz/fines/about-fines/fines-enforcement/>

When Police do arrest someone for fines, the detained person is processed through our Custody database, with a "fines enforcement warrant to arrest" code. New Zealand Police began keeping electronic custody records in 2008 (first a pilot and then rolled out nationwide in 2010).

As at 11 March 2019, there have been 29,938 custodies for fines enforcement for 18,948 people – this means some people have been arrested multiple times for fines enforcement between 2008 and 2019. Please note that fines enforcement may have been just one of the reasons each person was arrested, not the sole reason.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Sissons
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