

27 June 2023

Section 9(2)(a)

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Our ref: OIA 105329

Tēnā koe Section 9(2)(a)

### Official Information Act request: Items confiscated at Ashburton District Court

Thank you for your email of 15 June 2023, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information on prohibited items confiscated/seized by Court Security at Ashburton District Court in 2020-2023. Specifically, you requested:

- a list of prohibited items confiscated/seized by Court Security at Ashburton District Court in 2020–2023.*
- what happens to the items that are seized / confiscated? Were any people arrested for bringing prohibited items to Court?*

In response to your first request, please see below Table 1 which lists the prohibited items seized from persons entering Ashburton District Court broken down by year.

**Table 1: List of prohibited items seized from persons entering Ashburton District Court:**

Timeframe	Item(s)
January to December 2020	None
January to December 2021	3 x Knuckledusters, 1 x Cannabis
January to December 2022	1 x knuckledusters
January to 31 May 2023	None

In response to your second request, under the Courts Security Act 1999, Court Security Officers (CSOs) have powers to act in relation to the discovery of potentially dangerous items, and in some cases, the person carrying them.

When screening the possessions of a court visitor, a CSO can take into temporary custody any item that could be a potential weapon and return it to the visitor as they leave. If the item is deemed to be a prohibited offensive weapon, the item will be seized by a CSO and the person detained. The item and the matter is then handed over to the Police. The definition of an offensive weapon can be found on the Police website at: [police.govt.nz/faq/what-definition-offensive-weapon](http://police.govt.nz/faq/what-definition-offensive-weapon). This Police link refers to section 202(A) of the Crimes Act which is available at [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz).

Court Security Officers are not informed of the outcome once the item and person are transferred to Police.

If you require any further information, please contact Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at [media@justice.govt.nz](mailto:media@justice.govt.nz).

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/](http://justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Tina Wakefield  
**Deputy Secretary, Corporate and Digital Services**