

8 August 2023

Section 9(2)(a)

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Our ref: OIA 105424

Tēnā koe Section 9(2)(a)

Official Information Act request: sexual violence statistics

Thank you for your email of 15 June 2023, to the Department of Internal Affairs, requesting information relating to statistics on sexual violence under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 19 June 2023 your request was partially transferred to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry). Specifically:

1. *Of the offenders charged each year, how many of these cases are brought to trial?*
2. *Of the cases brought to trial each year, how many end in at least one charge being a guilty verdict?*
3. *Of all the cases each year that result in at least one guilty verdict, how many of those offenders are sentenced to prison?*

On 27 June 2023 the Ministry advised you of publicly available information and proposed a clarification if you required additional information.

On 3 July 2023 the Ministry contacted you again and on 4 July you responded with confirmation of the proposed clarifications:

1. *Of the cases disposed each year, how many of them reach the trial stage.*
2. *How many of the disposed cases that reach the trial stage have a guilty verdict.*
3. *Of the disposed cases that have a guilty verdict how many have a sentence type of imprisonment.*

I would like to acknowledge that this response is late, and out of the original timeframe. I apologise for this delay and any inconvenience this may have caused you. On the 2 August 2023, the Ministry contacted you to acknowledge this delay and advise that a response was being prepared.

We have interpreted your request for “trial stage” to include all cases that had either a judge alone or jury trial.

In response to part 1, please refer to Table 1 which provides the number of sexual violence cases disposed per year.

In response to part 2 please refer to Table 2 which provides the number disposed sexual violence cases which have been heard *and* found guilty.

In response to part 3 please refer to Table 3 which provides the number of disposed, guilty cases where a sentence of imprisonment is imposed.

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/.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Richard Williams

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Table 1: Number of sexual violence cases resolved at a trial, by year between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2023

	Calendar Year										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of cases resolved at a trial	500	491	466	464	477	504	471	427	353	430	517

Notes for Table 1:

- This data only counts disposed cases where the most serious offence was a Sexual Violence offence.
- A case has been considered brought to trial when it is disposed at or after the Trial Hearing.
- Year is associated with year that the case was disposed.
- The most recent disposal is used when finding cases.
- Trials include Judge alone trials and jury trials.
- The Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification is used to categorise offences into 16 divisions, within which subdivisions and groups exist. More information on ANZSOC can be obtained from: abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1234.0
- Sexual offences are extracted using ANZSOC division 03: Sexual assault and related offences.

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Table 2: Number of sexual violence cases heard and found guilty at trial, by year between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2023

	Calendar Year										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of cases heard and found guilty	204	196	200	185	196	201	200	174	142	180	217

Notes for Table 2:

- This data only counts disposed cases where the most serious offence was a Sexual Violence offence.
- This data includes cases that were disposed at or after the trial hearing and had an outcome of Heard- Found Guilty only.
- Year is associated with year that the case was disposed.
- The most recent disposal is used when counting cases.
- Trials include Judge alone trials and jury trials.
- The Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification is used to categorise offences into 16 divisions, within which subdivisions and groups exist. More information on ANZSOC can be obtained from: abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1234.0
- Sexual offences are extracted using ANZSOC division 03: Sexual assault and related offences.

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Table 3: Number sexual violence cases that had a sentence of imprisonment, 2012 – 2022

	Calendar Year										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Imprisonment	152	160	159	131	147	161	134	126	102	123	159

Notes for Table 3:

- This data only counts disposed cases where the most serious offence was a Sexual Violence offence.
- This data includes cases that were disposed at or after the trial hearing, had an outcome of Heard- Found Guilty and were sentenced to imprisonment.
- This data counts cases where at least one charge in the case was sentenced to imprisonment.
- A sentence of imprisonment can include life imprisonment, preventive detention and imprisonment.
- Year is associated with year that the case was disposed.
- The most recent disposal is used when counting cases.
- The Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification is used to categorise offences into 16 divisions, within which subdivisions and groups exist. More information on ANZSOC can be obtained from: abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1234.0
- Sexual offences are extracted using ANZSOC division 03: Sexual assault and related offences.