

9 August 2023

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)

Ref: OIA 106043

Tēnā koe Section 9(2)(a)

### Official Information Act request: Jury duty

Thank you for your email of 13 July 2023, to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry), in which you requested information on the number of individuals that did not attend jury duty. Specifically, you requested:

*How many individuals were charged in 2022 for not showing up for jury duty.*

Your request has been referred to me for response, as it falls within my responsibilities as Acting Group Manager, Courts, and Tribunals, and is being managed in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Before responding to your request, I would like to provide the following information from section 32 of the Juries Act 1981 on failure to attend jury service.

- (1) The Court may, after complying with subsection fine a person a sum, not exceeding \$1,000, the Court thinks fit if that person is summoned to attend and serve as a juror before the Court but
  - (a) fails without reasonable excuse to attend for service as required by the summons; or
  - (b) wilfully refuses or neglects to serve when called upon.
- (2) Before imposing a fine on a person under subsection (1), the Court must first inform that person of the default and afford that person a reasonable chance to explain it.
- (3) If a person who is summoned to appear and serve as a juror fails to answer when called, the Court may issue a warrant to secure the attendance of that person before the Court.
- (4) For the purposes of Part 6 of the Criminal Procedure Act 2011,
  - (a) the imposition of a fine under subsection (1) is to be treated as a sentence; and
  - (b) that Part applies as if the person on whom the fine has been imposed had been convicted on a charge and sentenced.

The Ministry holds information on finalised charges which are charges that have received an outcome through the court process.

In response to your request, I can advise no individuals were charged for not showing up for jury duty in 2022.

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/](https://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



Richard Williams  
**Acting Group Manager, Courts & Tribunals**