

15 August 2023

Section 9(2)(a)

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Our ref: OIA 106128

Tēnā koe Section 9(2)(a)

Official Information Act 1982 request: Retail crime convictions

Thank you for your email of 18 July 2023, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information about retail crime convictions. Specifically, you requested the following:

1. *Statistics on the number of convictions in relation to retail crimes spanning from 2018 to 2022 in Northland (specifically), and if possible*
2. *the age group (youth/adult) convicted the most in these cases.*

We have interpreted “retail crimes” as offences under the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Statistics New Zealand (ANZSOC) group “0823: Theft from retail premises”. More information on this offence group can be found at: abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-offence-classification-anzsoc/2011/08/082#0823-theft-from-retail-premises

In response to your request, please refer to Tables 1 and 2, attached.

- Table 1 provides data on the number of convictions relating to retail crime in the Northland Justice Service Area (JSA), which includes Dargaville, Kaikohe, Kaitāia, and Whangārei District Courts, between the 2018 and 2022 calendar years, and
- Table 2 provides data on the number of people convicted of retail crime in the Northland JSA, broken down by age group, between the 2018 and 2022 calendar years.

Please note that most offending by youths under the age of 18 is dealt with by the Police via alternative action. Alternative action can include issuing a warning, undertaking an alternative action plan, such as paying for damage, doing community work, writing an apology letter and/or attending counselling. As alternative action does not result in a court conviction, the Ministry does not hold this information.

If you require any further information, please contact Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at 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/.

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 Ombudsman may be contacted by phone on 0800 802 602 or by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Jacquelyn Shannon

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Appendix 1

Table 1: Number of convictions relating to theft from retail premises in the Northland JSA, between the 2018 and 2022 calendar years

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of convictions	276	283	256	263	257

Notes for Table 1

- This table counts charges disposed of (i.e., charges finalised in court) that resulted in a conviction at a District Court in the Northland JSA (including Dargaville, Kaikohe, Kaitāia, and Whangārei).
- Year is based on the charge outcome date (e.g., the year that a charge is convicted).
- This data includes offences under the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Statistics New Zealand (ANZSOC) group “0823: Theft from retail premises”.
- Offences are categorised by ANZSOC classification, which can be found at: abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1234.0.
- Data provided is released in published Tier 1 Statistics (data up to December 2022).
- Tier 1 statistics are the key official statistics by which New Zealand’s performance as a country is measured. There are principles and protocols that govern their production and release. More information about Tier 1 statistics is available from data.govt.nz/use-data/showcase/official-statistics/

Table 2: Number of people convicted of theft from retail premises offences in the Northland JSA, broken down by age group, between the 2018 and 2022 calendar years

Age group (years)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
19 years and under	14	13	7	4	2
20-24	19	21	20	14	12
25-29	30	27	29	28	22
30-34	28	31	43	30	24
35-39	18	25	20	15	10
40-44	9	10	9	9	10
45-49	9	6	7	7	6
50-54	6	3	4	6	3
55-59	6	3	1	4	0
60-64	2	0	0	1	0
65 years and over	0	2	1	1	0
Total	141	141	141	119	89

Notes for Table 2

- This table counts charges that resulted in a conviction at a District court in the Northland JSA (including Dargaville, Kaikohe, Kaitiāia, and Whangārei).
- A person is counted once per year for their most serious charge (even if they received more than one retail crime conviction during a given year). This includes information such as charge outcome, sentence type, sentence length/amount, remands in custody and bail and maximum offence penalties.
- Year is based on the charge outcome date (e.g., the year that a charge is convicted).
- The data includes offences under the ANZSOC group "0823: Theft from retail premises".
- Offences are categorised by ANZSOC classification, which can be found at: abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1234.0.
- Data provided is released in published Tier 1 Statistics (data up to December 2022).
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