

23 August 2023

Section 9(2)(a)

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Our ref: OIA 106196

Tēnā koe Section 9(2)(a)

### Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your email of 22 July 2023 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) requesting information, under the Official Information Act 1982, about the publication of victims' names. Specifically, you requested:

*"I would like to know the number of people who have applied to the court to remove their automatic identity suppression under s 203 of the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA). Of those who have applied to remove their automatic identity suppression, I would also like to know how many of these applications have been granted, and how many have been declined between the years of 2015-2022."*

On 4 August 2023 the Ministry contacted you to clarify your request. This provides you with a response to the below clarified request:

The number of Judge directions allowing publication of a victim's name despite automatic name suppression under section 203 of the CPA being in place.

On 21 August 2023, the Ministry informed you that your request had been granted and that you could expect a response no later than 28 August 2023.

In response to your request, please refer to Table 1 attached, which provides the number of judge directions to permit publication of a victim's name, in cases involving sexual violence, broken down by the direction type, for the calendar years 2015 to 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 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



Jacquelyn Shannon  
**Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery**

**Table 1: Number of judge directions permitting publication of a victim's name in cases involving sexual violence, broken down by direction type for the 2015 to 2022 calendar years**

Direction Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Suppression of name - Victim - Publication Permitted	6	1	3	3	2	3	5	6
Suppression of name/particulars - Victim - Publication Permitted	1	4	0	0	2	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>

**Notes for Table 1:**

- This data counts the number of directions to permit the publication of the name or particulars relating to the victim.
- This data includes directions linked to cases with at least one sexual violence offence.
- This data includes directions with a direction date between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2022.
- The calendar year is based on the direction date
- Statistics are based on the Ministry's Case Management System as at 14 August 2023. Because this is an operational system, data for earlier months may have been updated since any previous publications.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982