

14 August 2023

Section 9(2)(a)

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Our ref: OIA 106207

Tēnā koe Section 9(2)(a)

Official Information Act 1982 request: Dog attack prosecutions

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

I was hoping to find data about how many successful prosecutions there have been of 'owning a dog that attacked a person(s)' in the past five years.

In response to your request, please refer to Table 1 attached. Table 1 provides the number of convicted and other proved charges for owning a dog that attacks a person, for the 2018 to 2022 calendar years.

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

Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

Table 1: Number of convicted and other proved charges for owning a dog that attacks a person, between 2018 and 2022 calendar years

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total | 215 | 262 | 259 | 140 | 164 |

Notes for Table 1

- This table counts finalised court charge outcomes of “convicted” or “other proved”.
- This data is extracted based on the charge outcome year of each charge (e.g., the year that a charge is convicted).
- “Other proved” charge outcomes include:
 - discharge without conviction
 - adult diversion
 - Proven but not criminally responsible on account of insanity.
- This data includes charges for the following offences under the Dog Control Act 1996:
 - 7654: Owns Dog Attacks Person/Stock
 - 7655: Owns Dog Which Rushes Person/Stock
- The data is based on Tier 1 statistics, which were refreshed in March 2023. 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/