

11 September 2023

Section 9(2)(a)

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Our ref: OIA 106833

Tēnā koe Section 9(2)(a)

Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your email of 14 August 2023 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), data on criminal convictions. Specifically, you asked:

- 1) *What is the quantity of citizens with criminal convictions?*
- 2) *Knowing that a criminal conviction results in denied employment (I apply on behalf of ex-convicts). What is the quantity of citizens with criminal convictions that obtain employment?*

For part 1 of your request, the Ministry has interpreted this to be for the number of New Zealand citizens who have a criminal conviction. The Ministry undertakes reporting on the number of people convicted of an offence per year for their most serious offence. The Ministry does not hold information on the total number of New Zealanders who have a criminal conviction. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i), as the information requested is not held by the Ministry, and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

You can find data on the number of people convicted of a criminal offence per year on the Ministry's website at: justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/justice-statistics/data-tables/

In response to part 2 of your request, the Ministry does not hold information on the employment status of people with criminal convictions. While the Ministry responds to requests for criminal record checks, we do not record the reason for a request and we are not told if the result of the check impacted the person's employment. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i), as the information requested is not held by the Ministry, and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

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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