

23 August 2023

Section 9(2)(a)

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Our ref: OIA 106859

Tēnā koe Section 9(2)(a)

Official Information Act request: Geographical jurisdiction map

Thank you for your email of 15 August 2023 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information on judicial boundaries in New Zealand. Specifically, you requested:

*The Section 9(2)(a) is currently writing our book *Nation Dates: Timelines of significant events that have shaped the history of Aotearoa New Zealand (fifth edition)* and are interested in putting a map of the judicial governance boundaries in the book.*

*Question 1: Does the judicial system have a geographical jurisdiction? If yes, can you provide a map showing the geographical boundaries? If not, can you please confirm whether the image below is still correct (the image below is from *The World Law Guide* website and last updated in 2010)*

On 18 August 2023, you wrote to the Ministry asking that your request be treated with urgency.

In response to your request, please see attached a map of combined High/District Courts, District Courts, and Hearing Centres, as requested. I can advise the Ministry groups individual court locations into Justice Service Areas for administrative purposes. Prior to June 2017, a different administrative grouping called Service Delivery Areas was used.

Under legislation, the District Court is a single national court which sits in a number of courthouses in different parts of the country. Permanent registries are not located at all courthouses.

There are separate groupings used for Senior Courts. Under legislation, the High Court is a single national court which sits in a number of courthouses in different parts of the country. Judges are permanently located in Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch, along with permanent registries. High Court judges from the three main centres go on circuit to other locations as needed. For administrative purposes, cases are recorded by Court location.

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://www.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 or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JRS', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jacquelyn Shannon

Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery



Courts of New Zealand

- district court
- combined court – high and district court
- ▲ district court – hearing court

