

27 September 2023

Section 9(2)(a)

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Our ref: OIA 107001

Tēnā koe Section 9(2)

Official Information Act request: Drink Driving Convictions

Thank you for your email of 23 August 2023 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry), in which you requested, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), data on drink driving convictions. Specifically, you requested:

I would like to request the number of drink drive convictions per region per year for the last 8 years.

You also asked for the data to be broken down by breath alcohol reading level group. On 29 August 2023 the Ministry contacted you to clarify your request. You confirmed that your request was for the number of people convicted of drink driving offences.

I must advise that the data for this response forms part of Tier 1 statistics, the key official statistics by which New Zealand's performance as a country is measured. Tier 1 statistics are published twice a year in March (for calendar year) and September (for financial year). This means that data for the 2023 calendar year is not yet available and will be released in March 2024.

In response to your request, I refer you to Table 1, enclosed, for the number of people convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol, broken down by breath alcohol reading level group and Justice Service Area for the 2016 to 2022 calendar years.

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 Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to 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 people who were convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol, broken down by breath alcohol reading level group and Justice Service Area for the 2016 to 2022 calendar years

| Breath Alcohol Reading Level Group | Justice Service Area | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. Breath level 250 mcg/L or lower | 010:Taitokerau | 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| | 015:Waitemata | 22 | 13 | 9 | 11 | 13 | 7 | 11 |
| | 020:Auckland | 11 | 14 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9 |
| | 030:South Auckland | 14 | 16 | 22 | 19 | 14 | 11 | 14 |
| | 040:Waikato | 11 | 15 | 10 | 14 | 11 | 7 | 12 |
| | 050:Bay of Plenty | 16 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 10 |
| | 060:Wairiki | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| | 070:East Coast | 16 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| | 080:Taranaki/Whanganui | 5 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| | 090:Manawatu/Wairarapa | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 7 |
| | 100:Northern Wellington | 4 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 5 |
| | 110:Wellington | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | 120:Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast | 1 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| | 130:Canterbury | 14 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 6 | 10 | 8 |
| | 140:Otago | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| 150:Southland | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 7 | |
| | Total | 137 | 122 | 115 | 122 | 107 | 90 | 117 |
| 2. Breath level between 251 to 400 mcg/L | 010:Taitokerau | 7 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 |
| | 015:Waitemata | 7 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 9 |
| | 020:Auckland | 8 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| | 030:South Auckland | 10 | 12 | 14 | 13 | 10 | 6 | 7 |
| | 040:Waikato | 9 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 10 |
| | 050:Bay of Plenty | 4 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 9 |
| | 060:Wairiki | 2 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| | 070:East Coast | 0 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 5 | 6 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 080:Taranaki/Whanganui | 1 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| | 090:Manawatu/Wairarapa | 2 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| | 100:Northern Wellington | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 6 | 4 |
| | 110:Wellington | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | 120:Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast | 2 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | 130:Canterbury | 12 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 14 | 2 |
| | 140:Otago | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| | 150:Southland | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| | Total | 70 | 92 | 85 | 95 | 83 | 96 | 71 |
| 3. Breath level between 401 to 800 mcg/L | 010:Taitokerau | 659 | 500 | 496 | 505 | 413 | 527 | 493 |
| | 015:Waitemata | 794 | 773 | 842 | 882 | 628 | 564 | 738 |
| | 020:Auckland | 838 | 851 | 876 | 797 | 504 | 406 | 629 |
| | 030:South Auckland | 1,050 | 1,111 | 1,225 | 1,170 | 884 | 724 | 1,046 |
| | 040:Waikato | 944 | 837 | 814 | 861 | 732 | 733 | 875 |
| | 050:Bay of Plenty | 748 | 742 | 766 | 708 | 588 | 714 | 717 |
| | 060:Wairiki | 409 | 474 | 407 | 434 | 381 | 363 | 440 |
| | 070:East Coast | 565 | 611 | 771 | 781 | 633 | 638 | 628 |
| | 080:Taranaki/Whanganui | 401 | 436 | 382 | 367 | 372 | 362 | 415 |
| | 090:Manawatu/Wairarapa | 387 | 396 | 452 | 395 | 358 | 402 | 345 |
| | 100:Northern Wellington | 438 | 396 | 415 | 436 | 384 | 341 | 258 |
| | 110:Wellington | 250 | 216 | 185 | 174 | 155 | 147 | 114 |
| | 120:Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast | 309 | 428 | 427 | 394 | 367 | 354 | 352 |
| | 130:Canterbury | 949 | 875 | 825 | 772 | 691 | 879 | 743 |
| | 140:Otago | 340 | 354 | 389 | 343 | 305 | 321 | 335 |
| 150:Southland | 365 | 385 | 391 | 375 | 321 | 329 | 344 | |
| | Total | 9,446 | 9,385 | 9,663 | 9,394 | 7,716 | 7,804 | 8,472 |
| 4. Breath level between 801 to 1200 mcg/L | 010:Taitokerau | 162 | 162 | 141 | 162 | 156 | 207 | 181 |
| | 015:Waitemata | 249 | 275 | 292 | 275 | 220 | 179 | 287 |
| | 020:Auckland | 262 | 280 | 263 | 237 | 167 | 158 | 217 |
| | 030:South Auckland | 327 | 370 | 363 | 371 | 318 | 286 | 427 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 040:Waikato | 237 | 247 | 232 | 229 | 208 | 242 | 255 |
| 050:Bay of Plenty | 216 | 223 | 229 | 211 | 229 | 238 | 265 |
| 060:Wairariki | 147 | 140 | 125 | 136 | 143 | 107 | 176 |
| 070:East Coast | 180 | 226 | 249 | 238 | 217 | 274 | 262 |
| 080:Taranaki/Whanganui | 125 | 121 | 127 | 146 | 145 | 166 | 150 |
| 090:Manawatu/Wairarapa | 127 | 129 | 174 | 171 | 148 | 137 | 138 |
| 100:Northern Wellington | 127 | 128 | 138 | 123 | 143 | 148 | 126 |
| 110:Wellington | 61 | 82 | 68 | 63 | 64 | 64 | 49 |
| 120:Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast | 116 | 124 | 116 | 157 | 107 | 137 | 137 |
| 130:Canterbury | 322 | 275 | 277 | 278 | 238 | 365 | 278 |
| 140:Otago | 123 | 137 | 120 | 141 | 118 | 146 | 140 |
| 150:Southland | 137 | 109 | 145 | 140 | 123 | 144 | 155 |
| Total | 2,918 | 3,028 | 3,059 | 3,078 | 2,744 | 2,998 | 3,243 |

**5. Breath level
between 1201 to
1600 mcg/L**

| | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 010:Taitokerau | 16 | 16 | 8 | 13 | 9 | 16 | 17 |
| 015:Waitemata | 28 | 19 | 18 | 30 | 16 | 19 | 38 |
| 020:Auckland | 19 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 13 | 18 | 19 |
| 030:South Auckland | 15 | 14 | 28 | 23 | 19 | 28 | 35 |
| 040:Waikato | 11 | 13 | 19 | 20 | 23 | 12 | 14 |
| 050:Bay of Plenty | 15 | 16 | 24 | 19 | 20 | 31 | 17 |
| 060:Wairariki | 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 10 |
| 070:East Coast | 14 | 9 | 15 | 16 | 22 | 31 | 24 |
| 080:Taranaki/Whanganui | 8 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 13 | 9 |
| 090:Manawatu/Wairarapa | 9 | 8 | 12 | 9 | 9 | 16 | 12 |
| 100:Northern Wellington | 8 | 10 | 13 | 9 | 9 | 18 | 15 |
| 110:Wellington | 3 | 13 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| 120:Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast | 6 | 7 | 14 | 11 | 14 | 11 | 18 |
| 130:Canterbury | 18 | 29 | 28 | 26 | 24 | 37 | 27 |
| 140:Otago | 5 | 12 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 15 | 14 |
| 150:Southland | 9 | 10 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 8 |
| Total | 189 | 213 | 239 | 231 | 218 | 290 | 282 |

**6. Breath level
between 1601 to
1800 mcg/L**

| | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 010:Taitokerau | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 015:Waitemata | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 020:Auckland | 0 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 030:South Auckland | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| 040:Waikato | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 050:Bay of Plenty | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| 060:Wairiki | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 070:East Coast | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 080:Taranaki/Whanganui | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 090:Manawatu/Wairarapa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 100:Northern Wellington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 110:Wellington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 120:Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 130:Canterbury | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 140:Otago | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 150:Southland | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 3 | 6 | 8 | 17 | 17 | 12 | 12 |

**7. Breath level above
1801mcg/L**

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 010:Taitokerau | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 015:Waitemata | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 020:Auckland | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 030:South Auckland | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 040:Waikato | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 050:Bay of Plenty | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 060:Wairiki | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 070:East Coast | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 080:Taranaki/Whanganui | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 090:Manawatu/Wairarapa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 100:Northern Wellington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 110:Wellington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 120:Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 130:Canterbury | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 140:Otago | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 150:Southland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Grand Total | 12,765 | 12,846 | 13,170 | 12,939 | 10,886 | 11,293 | 12,199 |

Notes for Table 1:

- The data for this response forms part of the Tier 1 statistics. These are published twice a year in March (for calendar year data) and September (for financial year data). More information about Tier 1 statistics is available from www.data.govt.nz/use-data/showcase/official-statistics/
- This table counts disposed charges (i.e., charges finalised in court).
- A person is counted once per year, the details of their most serious driving under the influence of alcohol offence is recorded each year.
- A range of information is used to determine which charge is a person's most serious in a year. This includes information such as charge outcome, sentence type, sentence length/amount, remands in custody and bail and maximum offences penalties.
- People are counted for breath alcohol offences only; this data excludes blood alcohol offences and drugged driving offences.
- Justice Service Areas are geographical groupings of individual court locations for administrative purposes.
- The Justice Service Area is based on the location of the court where the final outcome was decided.
- Data is included from the High Court and District Court.
- A calendar year starts in January and ends in December.
- Data is extracted from the Case Management System on 28 August 2023.