

29 March 2022

Ref: IR-01-22-3949

Chuck Schooner
fyi-request-18543-6a129920@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Chuck

Request for information

Thank you for your email of 11 February 2022 requesting information about the 'increasing number of police officers.' Your request has been considered pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Each of your questions, including additional questions emailed from you on 17 February 2022 are answered below.

1. *Total police numbers dated 31/12/2019 broken down into areas.*

Please refer to Appendix A (attached) for the fulltime equivalent (FTE) staff counts, by district as at 31 December 2019, 31 December 2020, 31 December 2021 and 15 February 2022, together with the net losses and gains between the periods. Note that Police is organised at District level rather than areas.

2. *How many police staff the government had intended to have/forecast police numbers dated 31/12/2020 broken down into areas?*

Police set targets at a District level, which enables District leadership teams to best match the Police requirements of their Districts. Furthermore, targets are set at the end of each financial year, i.e., 30 June, rather than 31 December.

The table below includes Police's target levels for Constabulary employees from 2020 to 2022.

Table 1: Police target levels for constabulary employees 2020 to 2022

	30/06/2020	30/06/2021	30/06/2022
Northland	397	419	421
Waitemata	834	855	867
Auckland City	835	858	868
Counties/Manukau	1,131	1,156	1,171
Waikato	686	720	726
Bay Of Plenty	734	763	775
Central	731	754	765
Eastern	484	513	528
Wellington	807	830	842
Tasman	339	350	360
Canterbury	914	941	957
Southern	582	599	615
Service Centres	1,380	1,456	1,569
Total	9,853	10,213	10,463

Police National Headquarters

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3. *Actual police numbers dated 31/12/2020.*

Please refer to Appendix A.

4. *How many police staff the government had intended to have/forecast police numbers dated 31/12/2021?*

Please refer to Table 1 (above).

5. *Actual police numbers dated 31/12/2021.*

6. *Actual police numbers at today's date.*

7. *Please provide net losses/gains of officers each year.*

Please refer to Appendix A.

8. *Please provide total resignations 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date.*

Please refer to Appendix B (attached) which shows the monthly resignations for the calendar years 2019 to 2021 and up to 15 February 2022.

9. *Please provide total officers fired due to mandates.*

None.

10. *If vaccine mandates were ended how many officers could be reinstated tomorrow to assist with police numbers?*

Police are unable to speculate on how many staff may look to re-join Police should the requirement regarding vaccination mandates end.

11. *If vaccine mandates ended how many cops that resigned would be keen to re-join – i.e., how many cops have resigned out of principle because of government actions?*

Please refer to the answer provided for question 10.

12. *Are the police wholly funded by the taxpayer?*

Police is a Government Department and is largely funded by Crown. The Annual Report, which is publicly available, details all the funding sources for Police.

13. *Have any of the police had their salaries reduced or taken away from them the last two years? Yes or No.*

Reductions to Police salaries may occur for a number of reasons, for example, police staff may take one of multiple forms of unpaid leave, be stood down without pay, or change role after a mutually agreed negotiation. All of these situations have occurred in the past two years.

14. *Please provide any and all reporting of the safety/efficacy/risk assessment of individual cops wearing masks whilst driving their cars and the protection it provides them against Covid. Example what risk does a solo officer present to himself in a car by himself? Could he catch Covid from himself?*

Masks worn by Police officers reduce the risk of being infected by COVID-19 and of transmitting it to others. Wearing the mask while in a vehicle will reduce the spread of COVID-19 between different users of the vehicle over different shifts. Mask wearing

while on duty means that an officer will be always ready to interact with others without increasing the risk of infection to either person.

15. Would the addition of 200 experienced officers help with police resourcing - Yes or No.

There are times when an additional 200 experienced officers would help with police resourcing. Our target of 1,800 additional police officers by June 2023 is aligned with this view. In terms of experience, Police has recently launched its "Re-join" initiative as a pathway for former officers who wish to consider returning to Police.

16. As more and more footage emerges of police tactics and brutality including against children at these protests the credibility and trust the public will have in the police will forever be tarnished. You could in one action restore police credibility, confirm police work on behalf of the taxpayers that fund them, be the ace that restored freedom to millions of kiwis, have the police force back to adequate resourcing, stop police looking like idiots wearing a mask driving by themselves, ensure there won't be further violence against protesters making the public and your officers safe.

Your question appears to ask Police to form an opinion regarding public opinion of Police, and would therefore require the creation of new information. As such, your request does not constitute 'official information', and is not subject to the OIA. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under s18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held and Police has no reason to believe it is held by another agency.

17. How many officers would have not taken the vaccine given it was either the job or their career? If this information is not available then can the NZ Police collate this information via survey and make it available.

This information has not been collected by Police. The OIA only applies to information that is already held by an agency. There is no obligation to create information in order to respond to a request. I am therefore refusing this portion of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA as Police does not hold this information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Christine Parker
Executive Director: People Operations

Appendix A, FTE counts and changes.

Please note that the employees working part-time are summed to an equivalent of full-time employees (for example, two employees working 0.6 and 0.4 FTE would be a headcount of two but 1.0 FTE). These numbers include Authorised Officers and Temporary Sworn staff but do not include any employee on leave without pay or parental leave.

District	Question 1: 31/12/2019	Question 3: 31/12/2020	Question 5: 31/12/2021	Question 6: 15/02/2022	Net Loss/Gain 31/12/2019- 31/12/2020	Net Loss/Gain 31/12/2020- 31/12/2021	Net Loss/Gain 31/12/2021- 15/02/2022
Auckland City	822.39	864.71	822.90	808.88	42.32	-41.81	-14.03
Bay of Plenty	742.82	762.57	767.42	766.91	19.76	4.84	-0.50
Canterbury	944.88	957.49	961.19	966.35	12.61	3.70	5.16
Central	753.29	771.67	739.25	730.95	18.38	-32.42	-8.29
Counties Manukau	1,134.91	1,215.96	1,232.82	1,240.26	81.05	16.86	7.44
Eastern	485.38	504.36	502.84	506.46	18.98	-1.52	3.62
Northland	396.57	415.46	423.13	429.51	18.89	7.67	6.38
Southern	588.46	603.13	596.86	592.93	14.67	-6.28	-3.92
Tasman	335.66	345.45	354.74	353.96	9.79	9.29	-0.77
Waikato	714.89	725.56	717.65	707.65	10.67	-7.92	-10.00
Waitemata	811.05	842.52	830.25	823.95	31.47	-12.26	-6.30
Wellington	845.88	840.67	820.77	824.88	-5.20	-19.90	4.11
PNHQ/Service Centre	1,298.73	1,364.44	1,384.38	1,386.75	65.71	19.94	2.38
TOTAL Constabulary	9,874.91	10,213.99	10,154.18	10,139.45	339.08	-59.81	-14.74

Appendix B: Monthly resignations between 2019 and 15 February 2022.

Resignations by FTE

Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
2019	23.95	13.80	34.55	22.28	18.69	14.90	19.08	33.50	19.00	23.80	19.60	24.00	267.14
2020	13.75	23.56	19.60	6.00	11.80	14.98	15.60	10.00	14.00	16.53	10.80	18.98	175.60
2021	18.50	8.70	16.80	23.50	28.16	40.00	28.69	21.93	19.00	18.00	23.15	36.60	283.03
2022	48.89	24.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	73.79
Grand Total	105.09	70.97	70.95	51.78	58.65	69.88	63.36	65.43	52.00	58.33	53.55	79.58	799.55

Resignations by Headcount

Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
2019	31	21	49	40	42	27	30	42	27	35	31	35	410
2020	27	35	29	23	26	34	29	16	20	29	20	37	325
2021	27	21	23	44	40	53	42	33	32	24	32	41	412
2022	59	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	93
Grand Total	144	111	101	107	108	114	101	91	79	88	83	113	1240