

17 February 2023

Erika Whittome (Transfer from Justice)  
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Tēnā koe Erika

***Request for information***

Thank you for your request, transferred to Police on 11 January 2023, in which you requested the following:

*In March 2022, there were 122 people arrested and charged with trespassing on Parliament's front lawn in the first week of the protest that lasted nearly a month. The number of total arrests from the protests is more than double that, with 253 people charged "in relation to protest activity" according to police in this NZ Herald article <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/parliament-protests-charges-dropped-for-some-after-month-long-occupation/LN773X6BEFGSJGIN4HN5O4VD3U/>*

*What is the cost to date for these prosecutions in the NZ Court System?*

*What is the budgeted cost for 2023 to continue with the remaining charges?*

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), and I can now provide the following response.

As Police does not separately record the costs associated with individual prosecutions, we are unable to provide you the total expenditure to date on prosecutions associated with the protest surrounding Parliament in February and March 2022. We can also confirm that there is no specific budget for prosecuting any remaining charges in 2023.

Your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held by Police, and we have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department (for itself and for a departmental agency hosted by it or an interdepartmental executive board serviced by it) or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

As you may be aware, the Independent Police Conduct Authority (IPCA) has commenced an independent investigation and review (Review) of the policing of the occupation on and around Parliament grounds in Wellington during February and March 2022 (Protest).

Details of the scope of the Review are available on the IPCA's website<sup>1</sup> and you will note this scope includes the powers used to keep the peace, maintain public safety, enforce the law, and provide community support and reassurance, and the tactical exercise of those powers. It also includes how Police balanced the rights of protesters with the rights of other people throughout the course of the Protest.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipca.govt.nz/Site/publications-and-media/2022-media-releases/2022-mar-24-investigation-review-occupation-parliament.aspx>

**Police National Headquarters**

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Whilst this Review is underway, information relating to the issues under investigation and review is expected to be the subject of examination by the IPCA under its powers of investigation under the IPCA Act 1988. With this Review commenced, there is a strong public interest in allowing these matters to be considered in the round by the IPCA.

The IPCA anticipates the Review will be completed and reported on by 31 March 2023. Police recognises the importance of transparency in these matters and looks forward to the release of the IPCA's report, at which time more detailed information regarding the Police response to the Protest is likely to be publicly available.

Please note that as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police proactively releases some information and documents that may be of interest to the public. An anonymised version of this response may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D Greig', written over a light blue horizontal line.

PP. David Greig  
Superintendent  
New Zealand Police