



Our reference: IR-01-18-5190

28 August 2018

Mr Mark Hanna

Email: fyi-request-8236-689cfd5f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Hanna

I refer to the email of 5 July 2018 you sent to Police where you sought information pursuant to the Official Information Act of 1982. You requested information on Tactical Options Reporting (TOR) data, specifically:

1. TOR data for the 1 July - 31 December 2017 reporting period, in the same format as was released for the January-June 2017 reporting period.
2. The number, and percentage, of the total set of TOR events that have completed the full review process. For comparison, the March 2017 release said 11% of the events in that set of data had not completed this process, whereas it also said that this was the case for 0.2% of the events used to create the most recent biannual report at the time.
3. A breakdown of the types of tactical options recorded under the "Other" category.
4. If the use of spit hoods is not recorded as a tactical option under the "Other" category, please explain how their use is recorded by NZ Police.
5. Please also provide any relevant caveats that should be kept in mind when analysing this information, including the licence under which it is released.

I have responded to each part of your current request below.

1. TOR data for the 1 July - 31 December 2017 reporting period, in the same format as was released for the January-June 2017 reporting period.

The attached Excel spreadsheet, titled '4.Hannah Jul 18 TOR Data For Release' is a data export of completed TORs for 1 July – 31 December 2017, comprising the same information as previously requested and released to you in your earlier OIA request. This includes redacted or recoded fields of some fields: withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of natural persons; the specifics are outlined in the excel spreadsheet.

2. The number, and percentage, of the total set of TOR events that have completed the full review process. For comparison, the March 2017 release said 11% of the events in that set of data had not completed this process, whereas it also said that this was

the case for 0.2% of the events used to create the most recent bi-annual report at the time.

In the 1 July to 31 December 2017 period, there were 2,402 completed TOR events in the TOR database. This amounts to 93% of all TOR events in the TOR database during this period.

For clarification of the point made above, with regard to the 0.2% you mention, this is likely a reference to the number of TOR events as a proportion of officially recorded police business, whereas the 93% is a reference to the proportion of TOR events that were completed.

3. A breakdown of the types of tactical options recorded under the "Other" category

The 'other' category is made available to staff to record weapons of opportunity that are not captured in other areas of the TOR form. In fact, this section records both weapons of opportunity (e.g. torches), tactical options that cannot be recorded anywhere else in the form (e.g. tyre deflation devices, vehicles), and/or tactical options that should be recorded elsewhere in the form, but have been reported in the wrong place (e.g. spit hoods, restraint chairs).

Other tactical options are reported in an open text field format, which would require additional coding work to categorise. Furthermore, even if undertaken, given that the main tactical options reported in this area ('spit hoods' and 'restraint chairs') are only partly recorded here, and that the other place in which they are recorded in the TOR form is redacted in the attached dataset (as agreed with you previously – and see point 4 below for an explanation), categorising these open text entries would provide an inaccurate, partial picture to you.

4. If the use of spit hoods is not recorded as a tactical option under the 'other' category, please explain how their use is recorded by NZ Police

Use of spit hoods is recorded as one of the tactics within the 'restraints' category of the dataset. The specific restraint type, (including 'spit hood') is contained within the 'handcuffs type' question that – as listed in the data notes in the Excel spreadsheet provided – is removed from the dataset pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982. Some staff do, however, record use of a spit hood in the 'other' tactical option section of the form, and there are, therefore, cases of spit hood use within the 'other' data.

5. Please also provide any relevant caveats that should be kept in mind when analysing this information, including the licence under which it is released

The records provided in the attached spreadsheet are derived from the Tactical Options Reporting (TOR) database, which records the reportable use of force by police officers. Each row is a 'TOR event', which is the reportable use of one or more tactical options, by one officer, against one individual. Multiple TOR events can occur at one incident.

During the period of this analysis, TOR data does not include events where the use of force is associated with a fatality, as these events are the subject of internal and external investigations.

This data is incomplete and has not been cleaned or coded for analysis or to correct any errors. Some columns have been removed or altered (as outlined above), pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982, to protect the privacy of natural persons. Given the incomplete and potentially unreliable nature of this data, Police takes no responsibility for its accuracy and correctness, and advises that it is incomplete. Police requests that if you publish this data in any form, you attach a proviso noting that Police have communicated to you that this information is raw data which has not been checked, and which is therefore incomplete and may be unreliable.

You also asked we provide all information, including the response letter, in an accessible, searchable format and that the TOR data be in a machine-readable format such as CSV or XSLX; we have complied with this request.

As a related point, I also note that NZ Police releases an annual Tactical Options Research Report, which provides detailed analysis of many aspects of tactical options reporting data. The latest report – pertaining to the 2017 calendar year – is due to be released in the next few weeks.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



pp Superintendent Chris Scahill
National Manager: Response and Operations