

Appendix 7: Operation Cobalt information

Operation Cobalt Summary

1. Building on the success of Operation Tauwhiro, Operation Cobalt was launched to focus Police on responding to the harm caused by gangs in the community. The operation was launched with the mission to prevent, suppress, disrupt and, where appropriate, prosecute unlawful gang activities. The operation commenced in Tāmaki Makaurau on 13 June 2022 and was followed in remaining districts on 27 June 2022
2. This nationally coordinated operation has encouraged a sustained whole of Police focus through ongoing disruption and enforcement activity to address the unlawful behaviour and intimidation by gang members that affects the sense of safety and causes harm in communities and on our roads. and reduce harm in the community
3. For the public, they can expect to see increased visibility of policing in and around events involving large numbers of gang members in public places. We know that visible policing is what helps our communities feel safe.
4. Police have also targeted other unlawful activity through search warrants and other investigative methods.

OPERATION COBALT– COMMENCED IN JUNE 2022		
RESULTS AS AT 11 MAY 2023		
1,091 SEARCH WARRANTS	383 FIREARMS SEIZED	36,577 CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED
698 WARRANTLESS SEARCHES		47,092 INFRINGEMENT OFFENCE NOTICES ISSUED

Caveats

1. The above data includes both Dedicated and Non-Dedicated Staff as a 'whole of policing' approach is applied to Operation Cobalt. Data is captured by automated searches and manual reporting.
 2. Includes non-gang related searches.
 3. Charges are defined as "Prosecutions, warnings, and infringement notices (excluding traffic related) that had a mode of arrested, summonsed, other, or courts held (Youth/TPO referrals are not shown)".
 4. Includes one charge from a non-dedicated staff member - "not specified" district.
 5. All Operation Cobalt data is provisional as it is drawn from live collection and is therefore subject to change, both up and down, as further information becomes available.
5. The success of Operation Cobalt in disrupting unlawful gang activity has seen the operation being extended to February 2024. Lessons learned from Operation Cobalt will continue to inform our policing of high priority, violent offenders who undermine community safety and create disproportionate harm.