



13 March 2019

Police's Latest OIA Statistics

The latest reporting from the State Services Commission continues to show that Police receives by far the highest number of Official Information Act requests of any Public Service Department or Statutory Crown Entity (21,225 OIA requests were completed for the six month period 1 July to 31 December 2018). The increase from the last reporting period is due largely to the rollout and more consistent use of Police's new Information Request Tool, the system used to manage responses to requests for information under the Official Information Act. This figure does not currently include all media requests that are assessed based on the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982, but we expect to be able to report on those in future periods.

A reporting design error with the new Information Request Tool has impacted Police's ability to accurately report the number of requests completed within timeframe for the reporting period. However, a fix to the system has now been implemented and we are confident we will be able to report performance accurately from March 2019.

Police takes its statutory obligations regarding the Official Information Act very seriously, and is always striving to improve its response to such requests.

Many requests however are complex and involve sensitive, personal information about individuals, ongoing investigations or matters still before the courts. Police must manage such requests very carefully and meet obligations under a range of legislation regarding the disclosure of such information.

The numbers of notified complaints from the Office of the Ombudsman reflects the very large volume of requests received by Police, however such complaints are only 0.27% of total requests (57 complaints arising from 21,225 requests). Only 13 of these notified complaints resulted in views issued by the Office of the Ombudsman against Police (0.06% of total requests). While we can always do better, these numbers indicate that Police is fulfilling its obligations under the Official Information Act with the great majority of requests.

Ends.