

Police OIA Statistics (July – December 2019)

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 (40,692 OIA requests were completed for the six month period 1 July – 31 December 2019, seven times more than the Public Service Departments put together). This figure is only slightly less than the figure from the last reporting period (42,351), and is due largely to the 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 also includes all media requests that are assessed based on the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

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 0.1% of total requests (61 complaints arising from 40,692 requests). Only 8 of these notified complaints resulted in views issued by the Office of the Ombudsman against Police (0.02% 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.