

Reactive Media Statement
Police's Latest OIA Statistics – July-Dec 2021

The latest reporting from the Public 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 (33,466 OIA requests were completed for the six month period July 2021 – December 2021, significantly more than all Public Service Departments put together). This figure includes all media requests that are included in the data 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 equate to only 0.01% of total requests (32 from 33,466 requests). Three of these notified complaints resulted in views issued by the Office of the Ombudsman against Police (0.001% of total requests). We are always working to improve our response to requests from the public, but these numbers confirm that Police is fulfilling its obligations under the Official Information Act with the great majority of requests.