

Individually Reviewed File Programme Data

As of 15 March 2023

Released on 30 March 2023



Key Points

- ▶ Ram raids are defined as incidents in which a vehicle is used to enter a premise with the intent of committing a burglary.
- ▶ 'Ram raids' are not defined as an offence in legislation and therefore cannot be searched on Police systems using an offence code. Instead, Police rely on searching the 'free text' fields of incident reports (for the term 'ram raid') to identify if a ram raid related offence has taken place.
- ▶ As such all data generated by Police about 'Ram Raids' must be derived using searches of these free text fields in our near real time operational databases.
- ▶ This means all 'Ram Raid' data provided by Police must be read carefully alongside the caveats with which it is always provided.

Summary

Purpose:

The individually reviewed file data was created to determine the total number of retail and commercial locations that have experienced a ram raid occurrence (defined as “a burglary or robbery in which a vehicle has been used to enter, or attempt to enter, a premises”). This allows Police to take a number of additional steps to filter and determine from this initial dataset a subsequent subset of the data showing which retailers may be eligible to include in the Retail Crime Prevention Programme. It is the initial dataset on occurrences at commercial and retail locations which has been published, *not* the subsequent subset on eligibility. This occurrence data will also be used to monitor any change in ram raids for the duration of the RCPP.

Methodology:

This methodology involves a wide set of search terms across our database, and then uses a manual process to individually review each case. The methodology involves an automated daily key word search of burglary and robbery occurrences that contain at least one of the 50+ terms identified as common descriptors of ram raid style burglary at both commercial and retail locations. These individual files are then individually reviewed and manually coded to confirm whether they are a ram raid or not, as automated key word searches can include occurrences where the incident was *not* a ram raid (for example, an automated search may pull files such as “the DNA found at the scene matches DNA from a Ram raid” or “vehicle stolen from a car park, car was later found after a ram raid”). This methodology provides reliable data for the limited period of time from 1st January 2021 – present day. It does not allow analysis of trend data over periods outside that range – as without the very time intensive manual review process that data would contain too many false positives.

Evolution:

Police began reviewing the files returned from the automated key word search in August 2022, taking a staged approach. During the first week of review in August 2022, Police were using approximately 20 key word search terms to allow for the fact that ram raids are not always described using the key words of “ram raids” (e.g., other words such as “drove into”, “reversed into” etc are sometimes used to describe ram raids). As the language used to describe ram raids in both the Police and public domains has evolved, so too has the list of key words. This ensures that no historic incidents are missed. By the second week of review, the list had expanded to over 50 key search terms and during March 2023 it was further updated. Each time a key word is added, the analysis is rerun back to 1 January 2021 and reports are updated. By February 2023, Police had reviewed all files from this automated search from 1 January 2021 to current day. New instances of ram raids continue to be reviewed as they occur.

Data

The numbers of ram raid style burglary occurrences by Police District from January 2021 to February 2023 are shown in Table 1, Table 2 and Table respectively below. Tables 1 - 3 show all Ram Raid occurrences of retail and commercial premises for the given time periods- it does not show eligibility of ram-raided stores to the Programme. These occurrences shown below have been reviewed and manually coded to confirm they are a ram raid¹.

Please note that a ram raid is not an offence with its own offence code. In essence ram raids are commercial burglaries in which the means of entry is a vehicle. This makes collation of data problematic. The data is drawn from a dataset that can change as investigations progress and hence the data, even for a similar period, can differ if analysed on two different days. However, the data table is indicative due to there being no offence code, as the data was collated by text mining and a search of free-text fields – i.e., searching for certain text in the narrative describing the incident.

For these reasons, comparisons between the figures provided here and any other releases of the same data may show some variation.

Table 1: Shows ram raid occurrences by Police district January 2021 – December 2021 as at 15th March 2023

Table 2: Shows ram raid occurrences by Police district January 2022 – December 2022 as at 15th March 2023

Table 3: Shows ram raid occurrences by Police district January 2023 – February 2023 & total number of Ram Raid occurrences from January 2021 - February 2023 as at 15th March 2023

Graph 1: Retail Crime Prevention Programme Ram Raid Occurrences by Month and Year – 1st January 2021 – 28th February 2023 as at 15th March 2023

¹ Automated key word searches will include occurrences where the incident was *not* a ram raid (for example, an automated search may pull files such as “the DNA found at the scene matches DNA from a Ram raid” or “vehicle stolen from a car park, car was later found after a ram raid”), therefore a manual review of every file is undertaken to confirm whether the occurrence was an actual ram raid or not

Table 1: Ram Raid occurrences by Police district January 2021 – December 2021 as at 15th March 2023

District	2021 January	2021 February	2021 March	2021 April	2021 May	2021 June	2021 July	2021 August	2021 September	2021 October	2021 November	2021 December	2021 Total
AUCKLAND CITY	1	2	3	4	4	2	10	6	3	3	8	10	56
BAY OF PLENTY	0	3	4	5	4	2	7	7	5	4	3	3	47
CANTERBURY	0	1	2	3	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	14
CENTRAL COUNTIES/ MANUKAU	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	4	0	3	2	1	15
EASTERN	2	2	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	3	5	9	28
NORTHLAND	1	0	1	5	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	13
SOUTHERN	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	6
TASMAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
WAIKATO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WAIKATO	12	2	7	2	3	11	16	3	4	3	3	7	73
WAIKATO	2	1	2	3	2	3	5	3	1	6	6	7	41
WELLINGTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
NATIONAL	19	11	19	24	20	22	42	26	14	27	30	41	295

Table 2: Ram Raid occurrences by Police district January 2022 – December 2022 as at 15th March 2023

District	2022 January	2022 February	2022 March	2022 April	2022 May	2022 June	2022 July	2022 August	2022 September	2022 October	2022 November	2022 December	2022 Total
AUCKLAND CITY	3	10	14	10	17	7	1	12	2	5	1	7	89
BAY OF PLENTY	4	3	7	4	3	1	8	10	2	1	4	3	50
CANTERBURY	0	0	0	4	6	2	2	6	6	0	2	2	30
CENTRAL COUNTIES/ MANUKAU	4	7	1	3	2	0	1	1	2	1	2	4	28
EASTERN	8	5	6	14	15	4	4	3	6	8	8	7	88
NORTHLAND	4	0	4	0	0	0	6	2	3	0	1	2	22
SOUTHERN	1	0	0	1	1	9	1	2	2	0	2	4	23
TASMAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
WAIKATO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
WAIKATO	5	11	6	8	19	2	4	19	16	6	9	6	111
WAIKATO	6	6	9	7	5	1	6	2	5	5	1	3	56
WELLINGTON	0	1	2	0	0	1	4	1	5	4	1	0	19
NATIONAL	35	43	49	51	68	27	37	60	49	31	31	38	519

Table 3: Ram Raid occurrences by Police district January 2023 – February 2023 & total number of Ram Raid occurrences from January 2021 - February 2023 as at 15th March 2023

District	2023 January	2023 February	2023 Total	Total Grand Total
AUCKLAND CITY	7	2	9	154
BAY OF PLENTY	3	1	4	101
CANTERBURY	3	0	3	47
CENTRAL	3	1	4	47
COUNTIES/MANUKAU	6	1	7	123
EASTERN	4	2	6	41
NORTHLAND	2	1	3	32
SOUTHERN	0	0	0	3
TASMAN	0	0	0	1
WAIKATO	4	10	14	198
WAITEMATA	4	4	8	105
WELLINGTON	0	0	0	20
NATIONAL	36	22	58	872

Graph 1: Retail Crime Prevention Programme Ram Raid Occurrences by Month and Year – 1st January 2021 – 28th February 2023 as at 15th March 2023

