

25 JAN 2017

Bob McCoskrie
National Director, Family First NZ
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Dear Mr McCoskrie

Official Information Act 1982 request

I acknowledge your Official Information Act 1982 request of 22 November 2016, requesting information on cannabis convictions with imprisonment or home detention sentences.

Your request was for the following information for the past 10 years:

1. how many people have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment for offences which *include* cultivation, selling, or distribution of cannabis
2. how many people have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment for offences which *include* the possession of cannabis
3. how many people have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment for offences which include *only* the cultivation, selling or distribution of cannabis
4. how many people have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment for offences which include *only* possession of cannabis
5. please provide the same information for the four questions above where the sentence has been home detention.

Your request was clarified on 1 December 2016 to include the following:

- for questions 1 and 2: to include people that may have any other criminal charges dealt with on the same day; these may or may not be cannabis related offences
- for questions 3 and 4: to include people with cultivation, selling or distribution of cannabis offences (question 3), or possession of cannabis (question 4), and no other criminal charges of any offence type dealt with on the same day.

In response to your request please refer to the four tables attached and the associated notes. Data has been provided by financial year (1 July - 30 June) based on charge outcomes as this is the most recent data available.

This data includes offences in the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC) subdivisions to which they belong:

- 'cultivation, selling or distribution' has been categorised by 102: Deal or traffic in illicit drugs and 103: Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs
- 'possession' has been categorised by 104: Possess and/or use illicit drugs

More information on ANZSOC subdivisions can be obtained from:

abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1234.0

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response please contact District Courts Operations Support at dccorrespondence@justice.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



PP Jacquelyn Shannon
Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

Ref: 59956

Table 1: Number of people who received a home detention or imprisonment sentence for convictions that included cannabis cultivation, selling or distribution offences, by financial year

Sentence Type	2006 /2007	2007 /2008	2008 /2009	2009 /2010	2010 /2011	2011 /2012	2012 /2013	2013 /2014	2014 /2015	2015 /2016
Home Detention	n/a	123	255	366	355	310	358	293	252	242
Imprisonment	516	385	398	476	458	370	427	318	242	257

Table 2: Number of people who received a home detention or imprisonment sentence for convictions that included cannabis possession offences, by financial year

Sentence Type	2006 /2007	2007 /2008	2008 /2009	2009 /2010	2010 /2011	2011 /2012	2012 /2013	2013 /2014	2014 /2015	2015 /2016
Home Detention	n/a	44	67	100	89	70	79	59	87	85
Imprisonment	367	303	371	415	383	316	270	216	238	271

Table 3: Number of people who were convicted and received a home detention or imprisonment sentence for only cannabis cultivation, selling or distribution offences, by financial year

Sentence Type	2006 /2007	2007 /2008	2008 /2009	2009 /2010	2010 /2011	2011 /2012	2012 /2013	2013 /2014	2014 /2015	2015 /2016
Home Detention	n/a	69	152	208	212	168	212	156	132	110
Imprisonment	247	156	135	143	139	103	116	88	53	46

Table 4: Number of people who were convicted and received a home detention or imprisonment sentence for only cannabis possession offences, by financial year

Sentence Type	2006 /2007	2007 /2008	2008 /2009	2009 /2010	2010 /2011	2011 /2012	2012 /2013	2013 /2014	2014 /2015	2015 /2016
Home Detention	n/a	0	2	3	2	0	1	1	1	1
Imprisonment	22	17	22	23	20	15	13	9	7	7

It is important to note the following:

- the figures include both High Court and District Court data
- the data counts a person once per year for each sentence type by outcome date – i.e. if a person has received multiple imprisonment sentences in a given year they will be counted only once, likewise if a person has received multiple home detention sentences within a year
- as the data was calculated separately by offence type and sentence outcome, a person may have received both a home detention and prison sentence within the same year (at different times) for the same or different cannabis offence types. Therefore, a person may appear within multiple tables, or in both sentence types within the same table, within the same financial year
- for tables 1 and 2, a person's sentence may be influenced by other charges dealt with at the same time
- for tables 3 and 4, a person's sentence may be influenced by their previous offending history. The data used for tables 3 and 4 only shows instances where the type of cannabis offence is the only charge convicted on that date
- imprisonment sentences include: life imprisonment, preventive detention and imprisonment
- the Sentencing Amendment Act 2007 introduced new sentencing options of Home Detention, Community Detention and Intensive Supervision on 1 October 2007. Therefore data for 2006/2007 is not available, and data provided for 2007/2008 only captures home detention sentences imposed since 1 October.