



WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE
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 (SPECIALIST SERVICES)**

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Ms Margaret Quirk MLA
 Chair
 Community Development and Justice Standing Committee
 Parliament House
 PERTH WA 6005

Dear Ms Quirk

CDJSC Request - Outcomes of drug driving charges

I write in response to email correspondence of 5 May 2015 from Ms Niamh Corbett, Research Officer, Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, to Mr Anthony Kannis, Executive Director, Western Australia Police, seeking information on a breakdown of the outcomes of drug driving charges.

Your correspondence has been forwarded to me for a response as this matter falls within my responsibilities as the Deputy Commissioner, Specialist Services. The answers to your questions are as follows:

In relation to the request for a breakdown of outcomes resulting from a charge of "drug driving" it should be noted that Traffic Infringement Notices are not issued for offences involving driving whilst impaired by drugs under the *Road Traffic Act 1974*.

When detected by WA Police these offences are dealt with by way of a summons to appear in court. The number of court briefs prepared for court for driving whilst impaired by drugs for the periods 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 to date, under the relevant sections of the *Road Traffic Act 1974*, are as follows:

SECTION	OFFENCE	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
63(1)	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Drugs	9	7	3
63(1)	Driving Under the Influence of Drugs	53	40	27

64AB(1)	Driving While Impaired by Drugs	25	37	20
64AC(1)	Driving with Prescribed Illicit Drug in Oral Fluid or Blood	596	626	919

A determination of the number of drivers who were found to be driving under the influence of drugs who had their cars impounded would take a significant amount of time and resources to collate and process.

The summonses outlined above and the data collated with respect to vehicle impoundments are recorded on separate systems. Providing this information would require WA Police to link vehicle impoundment data to a specific incident of a driver being impaired by drugs. This would be a labour intensive task requiring a manual search and comparison of data from two separate systems. It would not be possible for WA Police to obtain this information without significantly compromising other core policing activities.

For information on how many drivers found to be driving under the influence of drugs had their motor drivers licences suspended, this matter should be referred to the Department of Transport.

In relation to how many drivers found guilty of driving under the influence of drugs received a term of imprisonment, information on court outcomes should be referred to the Department of the Attorney General.

Yours sincerely


G.E DREIBERGS APM
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
SPECIALIST SERVICES

9 June 2015