

Minister for Courts Minita mō Ngā Kooti

14 NOV 2007

Simon Power
Member of Parliament
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Simon

You asked a question for written answer which was unable to be answered within the normal written question timeframe. This question required a substantial amount of data to be extracted from the Ministry of Justice's Case Management System, which is why this response has taken longer than anticipated.

QWA 09325 (2007) - How many criminal files have not progressed to trial because defendants have absconded on bail or failed to appear, specified by district court where the files are held?

All information provided in this response is derived from data stored in the Ministry of Justice's Case Management System (CMS). CMS is the first comprehensive national database for criminal cases. It has been fully operational in all criminal jurisdictions since the end of October 2003, therefore comparable data from before this date is unavailable.

The attached table shows, by District Court and nationally, the number of cases on hand that were on hold at the end of September 2007 and were unable to be progressed due to outstanding warrants against all of the defendants on the case. The data is provided by the following four criminal jurisdictions:

- Criminal Summary – cases with charges that have been summarily laid
- Youth Court – cases with charges laid in the Youth Court jurisdiction (or in the Children's Court which preceded the Youth Court)
- Depositions – cases with indictably laid charges (or where there has been an election of trial by jury) that have yet to be committed for trial
- Jury Trial – cases where there has been a committal for trial by jury

The following should be noted in relation to the data:

- One case may have more than one accused and, therefore, more than one outstanding warrant.

- One accused may have more than one case and, therefore, more than one outstanding warrant.
- It is possible for there to be cases that involve more than one accused to have warrants issued against some, but not all, of the accused. These cases have not been included in the above counts as they generally proceed to trial against any accused still available.
- All cases that are on hold have been included irrespective of whether a date of hearing had been scheduled or not prior to a warrant being issued.
- The execution of outstanding warrants is responsibility of the Police.

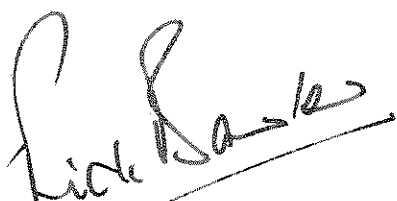
Number of cases on hold due to outstanding warrants against all of the defendants on the case as at 30 September 2007

District Court	Criminal Summary Cases on Hold	Youth Court Cases on Hold	Deposition Cases on Hold	District Court Jury Trials on Hold
Auckland	3554	90	100	51
Whangarei	441	14	7	4
Kaikohe	268	5	4	4
Kaitaia	139	3	5	N/A
Dargaville	25	0	3	N/A
North Shore	823	7	15	N/A
Warkworth	35	2	0	N/A
Waitakere	1181	22	31	N/A
Manukau	3055	25	59	18
Pukekohe	118	5	2	N/A
Papakura	368	5	3	N/A
Hamilton	1005	24	20	8
Te Awamutu	31	1	1	N/A
Thames	74	0	0	N/A
Huntly	143	5	3	N/A
Te Kuiti	25	0	0	N/A
Morrinsville	54	0	1	N/A
Tauranga	593	5	21	14
Waihi	55	0	0	N/A
Whakatane	115	1	2	N/A
Opotiki	56	0	1	N/A
Rotorua	513	19	5	5
Taupo	106	2	0	N/A
Tokoroa	79	3	1	N/A
Gisborne	296	2	7	2
Wairoa	17	2	0	N/A
Ruatoria	8	0	1	N/A
Napier	277	5	0	3
Dannevirke	28	0	0	N/A
Waipukurau	32	0	0	N/A
Hastings	304	1	1	N/A
Palmerston North	212	3	6	4
Wanganui	134	0	2	0

District Court	Criminal Summary Cases on Hold	Youth Court Cases on Hold	Deposition Cases on Hold	District Court Jury Trials on Hold
Levin	117	1	0	N/A
Feilding	40	0	0	N/A
Taumarunui	42	2	0	N/A
Marton	24	0	1	N/A
Taihape	28	0	0	N/A
New Plymouth	139	0	4	1
Hawera	36	0	0	N/A
Wellington	683	11	20	11
Porirua	211	3	3	N/A
Masterton	82	2	3	N/A
Upper Hutt	101	5	4	N/A
Chatham Islands	0	0	0	N/A
Lower Hutt	484	4	7	N/A
Nelson	206	0	4	2
Blenheim	88	1	4	0
Timaru	41	0	1	0
Ashburton	20	0	0	N/A
Oamaru	15	0	0	N/A
Dunedin	168	3	1	1
Balclutha	18	0	0	N/A
Alexandra	25	0	1	N/A
Invercargill	131	2	3	0
Gore	16	0	0	N/A
Queenstown	60	0	0	N/A
Christchurch	863	13	27	9
Rangiora	24	0	2	N/A
Greymouth	21	0	1	0
Whataroa	1	0	0	N/A
Kaikoura	6	0	0	N/A
Westport	6	0	0	N/A
National Total	17860	298	387	137

Note: N/A = not applicable i.e. those courts with N/A in the jury trial column relate to courts that are not gazetted to hold jury trials. Where there is a 0 against courts in the jury trial column, this refers to a jury gazetted court that has no cases on hold due to outstanding warrants. Where there is a 0 against courts in the other columns, this means that court has no cases on hold with outstanding warrants in that jurisdiction.

Yours sincerely



Hon Rick Barker
Minister for Courts