



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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Re: Freedom of Information Act application

In reference to your application made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), access was sought to:

“Subject: Request for Information – Enforcement Activities Related to Cannabis (2013-2023) Dear Freedom of Information Team, I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 1991 (SA) to request specific documents and data related to SAPOL’s enforcement activities concerning the illicit use, cultivation, manufacture, sale, and distribution of cannabis (excluding medicinal cannabis contexts) from 2013 to 2023. 1.0 Budgetary and Cost Information: 1.1 Detailed budgets and financial reports related to enforcement activities against illicit cannabis. 1.1.1 I understand that specific financial data might be withheld due to potential economic implications, but overarching figures would be insightful. 1.2 Costs borne by SAPOL for: 1.2.1 investigations, 1.2.2 prosecutions, and 1.2.3 operations against illicit cannabis. (If exact figures might compromise economic interests, aggregate data would suffice.) 2.0 Operational Data: 2.1 KPIs pertaining to cannabis enforcement, if available. Redactions concerning sensitive methodologies or strategies are anticipated and understood. 2.2 Number of enforcement actions initiated against illicit cannabis activities and the completion rate. Please redact specific details that might compromise ongoing operations. 2.3 Broad data on enforcement actions yielding prosecutions and the overall estimated value of confiscated assets from cannabis activities. Individual case details or potentially confidential data are not necessary. 3.0 Policy Discussions and Reviews: 3.1 Communications discussing or proposing changes in enforcement strategies related to cannabis. Recognising the “deliberative process privilege”, I expect that specific opinions, advice, or internal recommendations may be redacted. 3.2 Interactions with the Minister or other governmental entities on SAPOL’s cannabis-related enforcement. Only overarching themes or non-deliberative content is sought. To provide clarity: - I am not seeking information that might compromise Law Enforcement and Public Safety or Operational Integrity. - If certain details fall under Legal Privilege, Confidential Information, or Personal Privacy, I am open to receiving redacted versions. - I anticipate potential concerns with Resource Intensive Requests and am willing to refine my request if necessary, based on your guidance. - I understand that some third-party communications, especially those with other enforcement agencies or departments, might be sensitive and am amenable to redacted or summarized data. - The aim is to conduct research on the costs linked with cannabis policies in Australia and their impacts on public policy.”



In a bid to locate documents within the scope of your request, extensive searches were conducted with the following SAPOL Services:

- Business Service
- Crime Service
- Governance & Capability Service
- Metropolitan Operations Service
- Operations Support Service

In response to parts 1.1, 1.2, 1.2.2 & 1.2.3 of your request

The manner in which SAPOL records illicit drug offences does not easily allow for the isolation and extraction of records involving only illicit cannabis. Considerable resources and costs would be required in an attempt to devise a manner in which such records could be produced in a document. It is therefore determined that SAPOL does not hold any documents relative to costs borne by SAPOL for investigations, prosecutions and operations against illicit cannabis.

In response to parts 2.1, 2.2 & 2.3 of your request

Part 2.1 KPI's relating to cannabis enforcement

SAPOL releases annual data to Australian Crime and Intelligence Commission (ACIC) for inclusion in the Illicit Drug Data Report including apprehensions and Cannabis Expiation Notices (CENs) which are publicly available at: <https://www.acic.gov.au/publications/illicit-drug-data-report>.

Table 1 Cannabis enforcement in South Australia*

Financial Year	Apprehensions	CENs
2013/2014	2305	9204
2014/2015	2173	9191
2015/2016	1973	9608
2016/2017	1877	9200
2017/2018	1672	8961
2018/2019	1141	8093
2019/2020	3482	6850
2020/2021	2439	4920
TOTAL	14623	61107

*Excludes drug diversions

The 2021/22 data has been sent to the ACIC & is subject to ACIC finalisation.

CEN data is available through Data SA at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/expiation-notice-system-data>

Compilation of the above annual data requires an extraction and filtration process; it is not readily available for production. Data for the most recent years has not yet been compiled; therefore SAPOL holds no documents relative to this part of your request.

Part 2.2 Number of enforcement actions initiated against illicit cannabis activities and the completion rate

Cannabis enforcement actions are captured via Case Management/Crime Stoppers actions and Shield tasks. Compilation of this data requires an extraction and filtration process; it is not readily available for production, therefore SAPOL holds no documents relative to this part of your request.

Part 2.3 Broad data on enforcement actions yielding prosecutions and the overall estimated value of confiscated assets from cannabis activities

Prosecution Services Branch advises they do not report on costs in relation to this crime type. Illicit cannabis offences in the lower courts are expiable, in major indictable matters; the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) has carriage.

Data relative to forfeiture should be referred to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions as the responsible department for administering the Criminal Assets Confiscations Act and the recipient of the forfeiture order from the Courts.

Any further data reporting from South Australia Police would require manual interrogation of systems to generate data not kept as matter of normal business and would be incredibly onerous and time consuming. Therefore SAPOL hold not documents relative to this part of your request.

In response to parts 3.1, & 3.2 of your request

South Australia Police (SAPOL) has located documents that fall within the scope of your request. The documents are numbered and described in the following schedule. The schedule contains the details of the determination in compliance with section 23.

SA POLICE - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION UNIT SCHEDULE		
No.	Document Description	Status
1	Minute to AGD dated 5 June 2018	Full Release

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published on the SAPOL website Disclosure Log. A copy of PC045 can be found at https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf. If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing by 11 December 2023.

Yours sincerely



Senior Sergeant Kelly Johnson
Manager, Freedom of Information Unit
(Accredited Freedom of Information Officer)

7 November 2023