



10 July 2025

Ref: OIA 25-396

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

### Response to your request under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 29 May 2025, to the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) in which you request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information.

*“... One of these is the seizures at our border of illicit or controlled drugs by NZ Customs Service.*

*We are therefore making a request under the Official Information Act 1982 for data on the type and amount of each drug seized each calendar year by NZ Customs Service, historically from 1965, until the end of 2009. If data is not available from 1965, please provide data from the earliest year available.”*

Please find enclosed with this response a PDF titled “OIA 25-369 Customs historic illicit and controlled drug seizures”, which provides a breakdown of illicit and controlled drug seizures by Customs each year between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2009. The year 2003 is the earliest the data could be extracted from Customs’ database. This information is considered to be correct as at 11 June 2025, and it may be amended or reviewed by Customs at any time.

For information from 2010 onwards, I refer you to the publicly released statistics on the Customs website which provides quarterly updates on the type, quantity and location of drug seizures. These statistics can be found here – <https://www.customs.govt.nz/about-us/statistics/drug-interceptions>

Customs releases drug intercept statistics and non-drug intercept statistics on Customs website on a quarterly basis, with a three-month lag in the data we publish. The delayed quarterly reporting of these statistics enables Customs to protect operational security and time sensitive investigative activities. The reporting is scheduled to be updated to 31 March 2025, in the next week or two.

Customs is committed to detecting and disrupting the supply of illicit drugs into New Zealand and prosecuting those involved. Customs works closely with international and local enforcement agencies including the Police to target the criminal groups, and their supply chains, who try to exploit New Zealand.

Customs is also responsible for the interception and seizure of controlled drugs under section 72(4) of the Medicines Act 1981, and may exercise all the powers in the Customs and Excise Act 2018

(CEA 2018) in the case of uncustomed or regulated goods, including controlled drugs. Controlled drugs may be seized in instances where a person does not have a reasonable excuse to import or possess any prescription medicine, a person has a reasonable excuse to possess the medicine but has imported more than three months' worth of medicines or if the medicines are not appropriately labelled.

If you have any queries in regard to this response, please contact the Correspondence, Reviews and Ministerial Servicing Team: [OIA@customs.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@customs.govt.nz).

Please note that Customs proactively releases responses to Official Information Act requests on our website. We will hold this response for two months before considering publishing it. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Nāku noa, nā

s9(2)(a)



Debbie Kay

**Manager, Correspondence, Reviews and Ministerial Services**

OIA 25-369 New Zealand Customs Service Historic Illicit and Controlled Drug Seizures between 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2009*					
Year	Drug Type Description	Grams	Items	Millilitres	Number of Incidents
2003	Amphetamine	113.9	374.3		10
	Cannabis Leaf	45,906.8	261.5		159
	Cannabis Oil	12.2			2
	Cannabis Plant	34.1	55.0		11
	Cannabis Resin	327.0			50
	Cannabis Seed	988.2	12,370.5		120
	Class B Controlled Medicines		52.0		2
	Coca Leaf	30.8			3
	Cocaine	7,060.4			9
	Codeine			1,500.0	1
	Controlled Medicines			886.0	7
	Ephedrine	18,785.1	425,994.0		61
	GBL (gamma-butyrolactone)		2.5	7,080.0	5
	Heroin	1,447.3		12.0	4
	KHAT - Catha Edulis	697.2			5
	LSD		6,316.5		6
	MDMA (ecstasy)	5,406.3	214,113.0		89
	Methadone		5.0		1
	Methamphetamine	961.9			20
	Morphine		44.0		4
	MST (Morphene Sulphate Tabs)		6.0		1
	Opium	11.3			3
	Prescription Med - O/T listed	1,947.6	69,985.6	4,120.0	203
	Pseudoephedrine based products	4,073.8	296,326.0	1,958.0	295
	Psilocybin	18.3	2.0	30.0	8
	Spanish Fly (Cantharidin)			12.0	2
	Steroids - Anabolic	1.0	15,929.0	511.0	17
	Steroids - Other		18.0		1
	Unknown	2,986.5	2,791.0	1,931.5	76
	2004	Amphetamine	1,027.0	148.5	
Analogue Class C Drugs		1.0			1
Cannabis Leaf		1,222.5	970.5		134
Cannabis Oil		3,013.5			2
Cannabis Plant		38.2	1,197.3		18
Cannabis Resin		195.7	1,182.2		35
Cannabis Seed		561.1	41,611.0		146
Coca Leaf		249.1	43.0		9
Cocaine		18,687.3			24

	Codeine		67.2		2
	Controlled Medicines	9,369.6	6,484.2	410.7	73
	Ephedrine	24,832.8	50,426.0		31
	GABA (gamma-aminobutyric-acid)		180.0		1
	GBL (gamma-butyrolactone)		950.0	37,025.0	16
	Heroin	199.9		5.0	5
	KHAT - Catha Edulis	27,390.2	1.0		23
	LSD		231.0		7
	MDMA (ecstasy)	3,872.9	33,845.5	0.0	66
	Methadone			20.0	1
	Methamphetamine	26,248.5			27
	Morphine	500.0	59.0	225.0	3
	MST (Morphene Sulphate Tabs)		40.0		2
	Opium	247.1		0.0	2
	Prescription Med - O/T listed	82,954.1	53,935.2	855.0	141
	Pseudoephedrine based products	78,642.6	828,065.0	2,280.0	548
	Psilocybin	400.0	2.0		3
	Spanish Fly (Cantharidin)			45.0	3
	Steroids - Anabolic		27,660.0	105.0	40
	Steroids - Other	1,000.0	4,357.0	3,280.0	29
	Unknown	42,043.9	16,494.3	2,785.0	95
<b>2005</b>	Amphetamine	124.7	547.0		16
	Cannabis Leaf	2,877.5	238.4		94
	Cannabis Oil	0.0			1
	Cannabis Plant	375.1	94.0		14
	Cannabis Resin	104.7			22
	Cannabis Seed	765.7	67,350.0		81
	Cocaine	7,382.5			12
	Codeine		1,870.0		7
	Controlled Medicines	18,348.7	36,349.8	112.0	149
	Ephedrine	45,501.6	20,482.2	1,270.0	33
	GBL (gamma-butyrolactone)			46,289.6	5
	Heroin		16.0		1
	KHAT - Catha Edulis	38,698.6			28
	LSD		227.5		5
	MDA		8.0		1
	MDMA (ecstasy)	389.3	15,825.0		38
	Mescaline		10.0		1
	Methadone	2.2			1
	Methamphetamine	13,965.2			16
	Morphine		180.0		1
	Opium	0.7	1.0		2

## UNCLASSIFIED

	Prescription Med - O/T listed	789.5	53,408.5	4,353.0	204
	Pseudoephedrine based products	260,414.3	466,214.3	780.0	582
	Psilocybin	45.5	14.0		12
	Spanish Fly (Cantharidin)	904.0	14.0	970.0	15
	Steroids - Anabolic	1,306.0	14,875.0	378.0	29
	Steroids - Other	899.0	4,758.3	404.0	38
	Unknown	25,038.2	36,796.5	403.0	83
<b>2006</b>	Amphetamine	28.3	705.0		15
	Cannabis Leaf	6,245.5	23.1		103
	Cannabis Oil		1.0		1
	Cannabis Plant	17.3	226.0		9
	Cannabis Resin	159.6	3.0		20
	Cannabis Seed	861.1	25,574.0		63
	Class B Controlled Medicines		1,460.0		3
	Coca Leaf	453.2	405.0		7
	Cocaine	32,950.5			19
	Controlled Medicines	20,244.6	19,850.2	85.0	175
	Ephedrine	2,157.7	68,268.0	48,610.0	65
	GBL (gamma-butyrolactone)	781.0		201,385.0	7
	Heroin	3.0			2
	KHAT - Catha Edulis	46,230.0			12
	LSD		1,000.5		6
	MDMA (ecstasy)	3.1	4,273.5		23
	Methadone		960.0		1
	Methamphetamine	115,112.3			17
	Morphine		180.0	10.0	2
	MST (Morphene Sulphate Tabs)		50.0		3
	Norpseudoephedrine		988.0		5
	Opium	0.5			1
	Prescription Med - O/T listed	18,697.5	57,112.8	199.0	311
	Pseudoephedrine based products	372,125.8	913,035.0		219
	Psilocybin		4.1		3
	Spanish Fly (Cantharidin)	533.3	4.0	89.6	12
	Steroids - Anabolic	60.0	6,008.0	20.0	12
	Steroids - Other	14.0	23,832.0	730.0	30
	Unknown	139,556.1	3,429.5	1,072.0	53
<b>2007</b>	Amphetamine	25.9	1,840.0	195.0	12
	Cannabis Leaf	1,390.6	23.0		85
	Cannabis Oil	400.0			1
	Cannabis Plant	79.0	142.0		12
	Cannabis Resin	168.7	1.0		19
	Cannabis Seed	7,553.4	19,081.5		83

## UNCLASSIFIED

	Class B Controlled Medicines		202.0		2
	Coca Leaf	730.6	218.0		14
	Cocaine	19.8			8
	Codeine		2,723.0	400.0	14
	Controlled Medicines	28.8	47,159.4		340
	Ephedrine	1,360.0	11,842.0	1,801.9	49
	GABA (gamma-aminobutyric-acid)	754.0	2,170.0		23
	GBL (gamma-butyrolactone)			3,500.0	2
	Heroin	0.4	2.0		2
	KHAT - Catha Edulis	5,812.8			10
	LSD		4.0		2
	MDMA (ecstasy)	0.1	391.0		16
	Methamphetamine	34,312.2	269.2		15
	Morphine		184.0	10.0	7
	Norpseudoephedrine		752.0		10
	Opium	11.7		0.0	2
	Prescription Med - O/T listed	458.5	107,528.3	40.2	514
	Pseudoephedrine based products	435,764.4	64,631.0	3.8	431
	Psilocybin		4.0		3
	Spanish Fly (Cantharidin)	1,000.0	3.0	39.6	4
	Steroids - Anabolic	290.0	1,389.0	70.0	9
	Steroids - Other	664.5	34.0		6
	Unknown	66,449.2	126,816.0	1,500.0	71
<b>2008</b>	Amphetamine	33.6	1,747.0		24
	Analogue Class C Drugs	4,419.0	83.5		9
	Cannabis Leaf	735.8	3.0		61
	Cannabis Oil		29.0		2
	Cannabis Plant	57.0	166.0		13
	Cannabis Resin	51.5	3.0		7
	Cannabis Seed	2,750.0	2,457.0		93
	Coca Leaf	297.4	81.0		11
	Cocaine	444.3	16.0		9
	Codeine	110.0	8,595.0	400.0	15
	Controlled Medicines	122.7	125,985.5	30.0	496
	Ephedrine	39,381.6	18,110.0	320.0	48
	GABA (gamma-aminobutyric-acid)	1,153.6	6,568.0		35
	GBL (gamma-butyrolactone)			839,038.0	9
	Heroin	4.5			1
	KHAT - Catha Edulis	148,176.0	2.0		22
	LSD		72.0		4

	MDMA (ecstasy)	5.9	122.0		15
	Mescaline	0.7	10.0		2
	Methadone		233.0		2
	Methamphetamine	12,646.2			25
	Morphine		5.0	20.0	2
	Norpseudoephedrine		1,774.0	360.0	17
	Opium	590.0		40.0	2
	Prescription Med - O/T listed	910.0	103,440.5	1,718.0	511
	Pseudoephedrine based products	626,900.8	356,868.0	830.0	717
	Spanish Fly (Cantharidin)			28.0	3
	Steroids - Anabolic		1,157.0		4
	Steroids - Other	190.0	225.0		5
	Unknown	108,780.3	16,325.5	4,000.0	82
<b>2009</b>	Cocaine	2,980.1			3
	Ephedrine	48,133.9	232,574.6	300.0	87
	Methamphetamine	9,924.2	905.0		12
	Pseudoephedrine based products	1,067,465.7	210,425.6		814

*\*This information is considered to be correct as at 11 June 2025, and it may be amended or reviewed by Customs at any time.*