

HAMILTON POLICE SERVICES BOARD

- INFORMATION -

DATE: 2018 April 19

REPORT TO: Chair and Members
Hamilton Police Services Board

FROM: Eric Girt
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: *Year-End Report: 2017 Freedom of Information Branch Statistics
PSB 18-052*

BACKGROUND:

The Hamilton Police Service Freedom of Information Branch maintains annual statistics on the number of requests received for the release of information within local police data banks. This includes, but is not limited to incident reports, audio and visual recordings, crime scene or other investigative photographs, officers' notes, relevant correspondence and any other record or document to which the applicant is eligible to access. Access requests fall under two (2) categories: Personal Information and General Records.

The following is a summary of requests received during 2017, with the previous year's volumes indicated below for comparison:

PERSONAL INFORMATION	GENERAL RECORDS	TOTAL REQUESTS
662 (578 in 2016)	583 (732 in 2016)	1,245 (1,310 in 2016)

While volumes have remained reasonably consistent over the past years, the complexity of the files has increased significantly. Files are more voluminous due to the type and detail of information sought, and in more recent years, decision appeals have also increased. Accordingly, the time spent on individual files has grown considerably, particularly when the decision to deny full or partial release is denied, resulting in an appeal to the Information & Privacy Commission.

The Hamilton Police Service Freedom of Information Branch continues to rank very high in volume of access requests to municipal police services, and maintains an acceptable compliance rate in providing a response within the established timeframe in the Act. In 2017, the Branch provided a response to 97% of requests within the legislated period of thirty (30) days.



Eric Girt
Chief of Police

EG/P. Bailey

cc: Jamie Anderson, Acting Deputy Chief – Field Support
Peter Bailey, Manager – Records Business Centre / Property & Evidence Branch
P.C. Dana Barron, Coordinator – Freedom of Information