

The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board

Public Board Meeting
March 24, 2021

Report of the Chief of Police

Missing Persons Act, 2018

1. Recommendation

That the Board receive this report for their information and forward the attached Appendix A Annual Report Template to the Ministry of the Solicitor General in accordance with O. Reg. 182/19.

2. Summary

This report will provide an overview of reporting requirements under the *Missing Persons Act, 2018* and detail any urgent demands under the *Act* made by York Regional Police in 2020.

3. Background

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECTION 8 *MISSING PERSONS ACT*

Under Section 8 of the *Missing Persons Act*, police services are required to report annually on their use of urgent demands under the *Act*, and police services boards are required to make this report available to the public. The *Missing Persons Act* was proclaimed by the government on July 1, 2019 and provides officers with additional resources to use when a

person goes missing and there is no evidence of criminal activity. Previously when a person went missing without evidence of criminal activity, police were limited in the ways they could investigate. This *Act* allows police to respond to missing persons investigations quickly while balancing concerns for an individual's privacy. Officers are now able to obtain copies of records that may assist in a search, obtain a court order to allow entry into a premises to search for a missing person and make an urgent demand for records without a court order in certain urgent circumstances.

To ensure transparency and accountability, the *Act* requires that Chiefs of Police and the Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police report annually on the use of urgent demands for records by members of the police service using the Ministry's Annual Report Template Form 7. This report shall be provided to the Police Services Board by April 1st and must include the total number of urgent demands made that year, the number of missing persons investigations to which they related and a description of the types of records specified in the urgent demands for records. After receiving the report, the Police Services Board shall provide a copy of the report to the Minister and make the report available to the public by June 1st.

Officers who make an urgent demand for records are required to make reasonable efforts to provide notice to the individual whose information has been produced as a result of an urgent demand for records. In addition, officers are also required to report the details of urgent demands for records to an individual designated by the organization, who in turn is required to report to the Police Services Board annually. The individual designated by York Regional Police to receive these reports is the Assistant Manager, Strategic Services Bureau.

4. Analysis

DEMANDS FOR RECORDS

In 2020, there was one submission made to the Assistant Manager, Strategic Services Bureau, outlining a demand for records which related to one missing person investigation. York Regional Police requested and obtained records of telecommunications or records that contained other electronic communications information, including information about signals.

5. Financial

There are no financial implications.

6. Conclusion

York Regional Police investigated 1,255 missing person reports in 2020 and is committed to using all resources at our disposal, including this legislation, to thoroughly investigate these reports so that we can locate these missing persons and ensure their safety.

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Jim MacSween, B.A.A.
Chief of Police

JMS/rh

Attachment (1) – Appendix A, Ontario Solicitor General, Annual Report Template

In accordance with O.Reg.182/19 under the *Missing Persons Act, 2018* the contents included in this report must be prepared by April 1 of each year, and made publicly available by June 1 of each year.

Data Collection

Period of data collection

Start Date (yyyy/mm/dd)
2020/01/01

End Date (yyyy/mm/dd)
2020/12/31

Name of Police Force
York Regional Police

Detachment Location (if applicable)

Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	PO Box
City/Town	Province		Postal Code

Total Number of Urgent Demands made 1	Number of Missing Persons Investigations in which a demand was made 1
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Types of records specified in the urgent demands and total number of times that each type of record was included in the urgent demands

Records	Description	Total number of times demanded
Records containing contact information or other identifying information		
Photos, videos, or other records containing visual representation		
Records of telecommunications or records that contain other electronic communications information, including information about signals related to a person's location	Records pertaining to missing person's phone number - transmission data, tracking data, subscriber information & text messages.	1
Records of employment information		
Records of personal health information within the meaning of the <i>Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004</i>		
Records related to services received from a service provider as defined in subsection 2(1) of the <i>Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017</i>		
Records that related to a student of an educational institution		
Records containing travel and accommodation information		

Records	Description	Total number of times demanded
Records of financial information		
Other records		