



The Regional Municipality of York Police Service Board

Public Board Meeting
March 26, 2025
For Information

Report of the Chief of Police

Missing Persons Act, 2018

1. Recommendation

That the Board receive this annual report and forward the attachment, Ontario Solicitor General, Annual Report Template, to the Ministry of the Solicitor General in accordance with *O. Reg. 182/19*.

2. Purpose

This report will provide an overview of reporting requirements under the *Missing Persons Act, 2018* (the Act) and detail any urgent demands made under the Act by York Regional Police in 2024.

3. Background

Under section 8 of the *Missing Persons Act, 2018*, police services are required to report annually on their use of urgent demands under the Act, and Police Service Boards are required to make this report available to the public. The *Missing Persons Act, 2018*, 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 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 Service 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 are related and a description of the types of records specified in the urgent demands for records. After receiving the report, the Police Service 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 Service Board annually. The individual designated by York Regional Police to receive these reports is the Inspector of the Quality Assurance Bureau.

4. Analysis

DEMAND FOR RECORDS

In 2024, there were 58 submissions made to the Inspector of the Quality Assurance Bureau, outlining urgent demands for records which related to 26 missing person investigations. Of these 58 submissions, there were 33 demands for financial information, nine demands for contact or other identifying information, six demands for records of telecommunications or records that contained other electronic communications information, six demands for records containing travel and accommodation information and four demands for photos, videos or other records containing visual representation.

5. Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications from the results of this report.

6. Local Impact

There are no local impacts from the results of this report.

7. Conclusion

York Regional Police investigated 985 missing person reports in 2024. York Regional Police 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.

Alternative formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Approved for Submission: Jim MacSween, M.O.M., B.A.A.
Chief of Police

Attachment (1) Missing Persons Act Board Report – Ontario Solicitor General, Annual Report
Template