

16 December 2019

Amy Ferguson
fyi-request-11511-8739f5cb@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Amy,

Re: Official Information Act Request re Police Informants

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 22 October 2019 received via email, in which you sought information on the following:

- 1. Over the past 36 months, how many Paid & Non Paid Police informants have been active within the Wellington Region. Could you please break this down into Areas? & outline the number of paid & unpaid informants. Also the percentage of which are Male & which are Female & also a summary of the demographic detail.*
- 2. How are they remunerated: and*
- 3. How much are they, on average, remunerated per interaction; and*
- 4. What legal relationship do the Police have with the informants? Are they employed, with a contract or are they paid "under the table"; and*
- 5. Please provide any NEW and current policy document or manual for Police dealing with informants.*

I have considered your request and can advise that police have acknowledged publicly on numerous occasions that they pay informants money for information.

Questions 1- 3

Police only release national 'year to date' amounts paid to informants and do not release any other information about the payments because to do so would indicate to criminals the level of police activity in each separate area. Providing this information could lead to the actual identification of informants. Exposing informants publically would place their safety at serious risk and would reduce the effectiveness of the informant programme.

Question 4 & 5

The policy relating to informants contains sensitive police information. Providing the public with our informants policy could arm criminals with information about our methodologies and how we work in this field. They could use this to reduce our capability to solve serious crime and this would not be in the public interest.

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street, PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. www.police.govt.nz

Therefore your request is refused pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Official Information Act as the making available of this information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences and the right to a fair trial.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



John Mackie
Detective Inspector
National Criminal Investigations Group
Police National Headquarters