

24 January 2020

Jason
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Dear Jason

Request for information

IR-01-19-33712

Thank you for your online submission dated 5 December 2020 requesting information on police and ambulance co-response to drug overdose incidents. You asked:

- 1. Do Police monitor ambulance dispatch communications?*
- 2. Do individual officers have the ability to monitor communications between ambulance staff and dispatch?*
- 3. Under what circumstances do Police attend emergency call outs for ambulance to attend a drug overdose?*
- 4. How many emergency call outs for drug overdoses Police attended in 2018?*

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 and I enclose answers to your questions overleaf. I have also attached the Standard Operating Procedures that outline the circumstances where police and ambulance may be required to co-respond to an event, such as a drug overdose.

If you have any questions, you may contact Communication Centres staff member Nicola Anamani at Nicola.Anamani@police.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Inspector Ian Harris
National Operations Manager, Communication Centres

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Police and Ambulance co-response: drug overdose

1. Do Police monitor ambulance dispatch communications?

Police does not routinely monitor ambulance dispatch communications. It is not part of standard operating procedures nor common practice among staff.

When ambulance require Police assistance at an incident, they create an event in a system called *InterCAD*. *InterCAD* events contain text information only, not audio. Police use the text information to inform our response.

2. Do individual officers have the ability to monitor to communications between ambulance staff and dispatch?

Police does not give individual officers the ability to monitor ambulance radio communications. However, our staff have the same access as any other member of the public to equipment that can be used to listen to communications between ambulance staff and dispatch. Legislation governs what Police and members of the public are allowed to do with anything heard on these channels.

3. Under what circumstances do Police attend emergency call outs for ambulance to attend a drug overdose?

Police does not automatically co-respond with ambulance to call-outs relating to drug overdose, unless a death has occurred. As per the attached *Allied Emergency Services Standard Operating Procedure* agreement, Police will respond to incidents where there is a perceived danger to responding Ambulance crew. Some drug overdose incidents may meet this criteria.

4. How many emergency call outs for drug overdoses Police attended in 2018?

In 2018, Police Communication Centres recorded 995 events where frontline Police were dispatched to either reports of an overdose or someone expressing a desire to overdose.