

22 April 2014

Ms Leah Trass
fyi-request-1200-eb3b8068@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Trass

I refer to your Official Information Act request for the following information: I apologise for not responding to your request earlier. I have been asked to provide the following:

1. *What policies are in place to protect client/child rights to privacy regarding uplifting children in public places (eg business district or place of business).*
2. *What training is given to social workers/police to make this less traumatic for child/parent/caregiver.*

Request 1

Legislation in New Zealand provides the mandate for Police to uplift children, which includes those also in public places, for example:

- Children, Young Persons & their Families Act 1989, in relation to care and protection concerns and also those who are apprehended for offending.
- Education Act 1989, in relation to truancy
- Policing Act 2008, in relation to intoxicated persons

The Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1989 is the principle Act which outlines children's rights and the responsibilities of all persons who exercise powers under it. Further, there are objects and principles throughout the Act which further places responsibilities on those affecting it.

The rights of children, their vulnerability, privacy and ensuring that family/whanau are fully informed and engaged with significant decisions that are made in relation to them are key aspects of the Act.

Request 2

Youth specific training is delivered at all levels of the Police from Recruit training to senior and specialist courses.

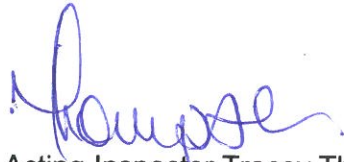
The majority of youth specific training is held at the Royal New Zealand Police College.

Nationally mandated refresher training via an e learning package has recently been completed and within Policing Districts themselves youth specialists deliver training to staff.

In relation to children, Police employ 24 Child Case Managers, a group of highly qualified specialised staff who work solely with children under the age of 14 (as defined by the Act) and their families.

The New Zealand Police is unique in that they have a dedicated Youth Services Group trained to specialise in working with children and young people.

Yours sincerely



Acting Inspector Tracey Thompson
National Coordinator: Youth Aid
National Prevention Centre
Police National Headquarters