

05 May 2020

Grant Carroll
Fyi-request-12550-x@xxx

REF: IR-01-20-9193

Dear Mr Carroll

I refer to your email dated 30 March 2020 in which you requested the following information about the Northland State Highway on 25 March 2020:

- 1) Was the setting up of these road blocks lawful and if it was what legislation or New Zealand law permits this? If they were unlawful what police action is being taken against those involved in setting them up?
- 2) What was the role of the police officers involved with the checkpoints?
- 3) It was also stated that police Far North Area Commander, Inspector Riki Whiu, visited at least one of these roadblocks - what orders or advice was given by him to the police officers involved with the checkpoints?

I have considered your request in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982. My response is below.

Police staff were in attendance to ensure the safety of everyone using the roads and to ensure roads were not blocked. Our focus while attending was to provide guidance and reassurance to tourists about their responsibilities as New Zealand had moved to Alert Level 4 for COVID-19.

Police took the opportunity to speak to members of the public to ensure that they were informed and that if they did not need to be travelling into the north they were encouraged to travel to areas that could facilitate their needs.

I am advised that Inspector Whiu did not attend any of the checkpoints. He did however speak with senior members of the local iwi to discuss ways they can keep their people safe. Police continue to work with all communities across the country to ensure people are kept safe and feel safe during these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely



Lauano Sue Schwalger
Assistant Commissioner: District Operations

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