



26 June 2020

ljj  
[iii.fyi-request-12758-a63db9bb@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:iii.fyi-request-12758-a63db9bb@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear ljj

**Re: Official Information Act request IR-01-020-11674 seeking information as follows:**

*I would like to know if the persons carrying out the community checkpoints during covid 19 are:*

- 1. Police Vetted to provide a means of ensuring that persons serving in their designated posts are assessed as to their reliability and integrity.*
- 2. Are legally allowed to impede legally traveling citizens and under what law or legislation.*
- 3. If the police have the names of any of these persons and NGO and to provide them please.*

Firstly, please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in responding to your request, this is due to the unprecedented circumstances of this event and number of requests for information.

Police accepts that there have been strong views in relation to this issue, and not all agree with the approach taken. Ultimately, Police's approach has been driven by a desire to maintain public safety and the trust and confidence of all.

Police did not vet nor collect details of all those volunteering at the community checkpoints. However should personal details have been collected, their disclosure would have been declined under Section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.

There are two pieces of New Zealand legislation that were applicable pertaining to this situation:

**Powers available to Constables under Section 71A (1) of the Health Act 1956 included:**

1. Enter into or on any land, building, aircraft, ship or vehicle; and
2. Inspect any land, building, aircraft, ship or vehicle and anything on or in it; and
3. Stop any vehicle, including a ship or taxiing aircraft; and
4. Prevent any stationary aircraft, ship, or vehicle from moving; and
5. Prevent an aircraft or ship from departing.

**Powers available to Constables under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 included:**

1. The power to close roads and public places (S 88); and
2. The power to give directions to stop any activity that may cause or substantially contribute to an emergency (S 91)

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

Yours sincerely,



Superintendent Steve Greally  
**Commander: Major Operations Centre**

**Police National Headquarters**

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