



NEW ZEALAND
CUSTOMS SERVICE
TE MANA ĀRAI O AOTEAROA

AUCKLAND

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PROTECTING NEW ZEALAND'S BORDER

31 January 2014

Ref: IPC OIA 13-243

Alex Harris

Email: fyi-request-1367-fe82ca7d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Harris

Request for Information

I refer to your request lodged via www.fyi.org.nz on 13 December 2013, asking whether there is a manual, documentation, standard procedure or other guidance for Customs staff conducting searches of electronic devices at the border using powers under section 151 of the Customs and Excise Act 1996. You also asked for a copy of that manual if it exists. Your request has been treated as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act)

In response to your request I can advise that there is a manual for Customs staff to use when conducting preliminary searches in the circumstances you describe. This manual has been withheld under section 6(c) of the Act as the release of this information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences. In this case the release of the information would reveal investigative techniques used by Customs when examining electronic devices.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act, by way of complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman, to seek an investigation and review of this decision.

Yours sincerely



Bill Perry
Deputy Comptroller Operations