



2 December 2020

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Andrew Chen  
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Dear Andrew

**Official Information Act 1982 request 2021-0224 – Facial Recognition Technology**

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 13 October 2020.

You requested—

*I would like to request copies of any briefings, reports, or other papers provided to Ministers about the use of facial recognition technologies since 19 October 2017.*

*In addition, I would like to request copies of any correspondence relating to the development of Privacy Impact Assessments related to facial recognition technologies, and/or correspondence relating to a decision not to complete Privacy Impact Assessments related to facial recognition technologies, since 19 October 2017.*

In response to part one of your request, I can provide you with the following information:

*Appendix A – Aide memoire and briefings*

Appendix A, attached, includes the following documentation:

- Internal Affairs aide memoire – Use of Facial Recognition Technology at Internal Affairs, 25 May 2018
- Internal Affairs briefing – Facial Recognition Services Business Case, 15 October 2018
- Internal Affairs briefing – Facial Recognition Services, 25 October 2018.

Some information in this documentation is being withheld under the following provisions of the Act:

- *9(2)(a) of the Act; to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons, and;*
- *9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act; where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or is the subject of the information.*
- *9(2)(k) of the Act; prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.*

Please note that the Appendix B of the Internal Affairs briefing *Facial Recognition Services Business Case, 15 October 2018*, has not been included in Appendix A. The Department has decided to provide you with this information; however we are still working to prepare this document for release. Some information may be withheld under the aforementioned provisions of the Act.

In response to part two of your request, I can advise you that we have identified a number of pieces of email correspondence which fall within the scope of your request.

The Department will be providing the requested information to you. Some information may be withheld under the following provisions of the Act:

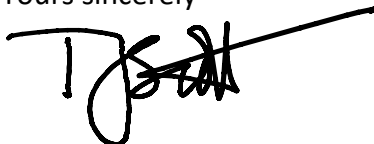
- *9(2)(a) of the Act; to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons, and;*
- *9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act; where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or is the subject of the information.*
- *9(2)(k) of the Act; prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.*

We are currently preparing this information for release and will provide it as soon as practicable. We anticipate this will be with you in the next two weeks.

Where information falls outside the scope of your request, it will be removed.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Scott', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tiffany Scott  
Manager Branch Development and Support  
Service Delivery and Operations