

31 May 2021

Grant Carroll

By email to: fyi-request-15447-c872e033@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Carroll

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: OUR REFERENCE OIA 01-21-15643

Thank you for your email of 14 May 2021 noting a recent social media post of a Facebook user's profile showing New Zealand Police staff standing with a member of the public, and a superimposed caption reading "*I Stand With Israel Forever*". You submitted a copy of the image in question, and seek the following information:

1. Is it considered appropriate for three members of the New Zealand Police, in particular, two very senior members, to appear in a photo on a social media platform with the caption "*I Stand With Israel Forever*" on the photo?
2. Does New Zealand Police have any policy or procedures in place to regulate how its members are able to support or oppose political causes and, if so, how are these officers able to have their photo on a very widely used and viewed social media platform with a caption such as "*I Stand With Israel Forever*" in the photo?

As you are aware, your request has been considered in line with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), and I can now provide the following response.

The photo in question has had a filter applied to it. These types of filters (or frames) are frequently applied to social media users' profile photos, and are not things Police (or any organisation) can control being applied to photos. In this example, the relevant staff members were not engaging in any form of political event.

Police does have policy in place to help guide its employees in their dealings with politicians and matters of a political nature. This policy is a publicly available at: www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/elections-and-political-matters-policy. As already mentioned, however, the staff members shown in the image you supplied were not engaging in any form of political event, so the policy did not apply to them.

I trust this information provided addresses your area of interest; but you have the right under the OIA to ask the Ombudsman to review my handling of your request if you are not satisfied with Police's response.

Sincerely



Tara Edwards

Practice Manager: Assurance Group

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