

Hon Poto Williams

MP for Christchurch East

Minister for Building and Construction

Minister of Police

Associate Minister for Children

Associate Minister of Housing (Public Housing)



OIA 2021-143

Te Ariki Paitai

Email: fyi-request-15638-4d11b867@requests.fyi.org.nz

- 1 JUL 2021

Dear Te Ariki

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 2 June 2021, in which you requested:

- *Please provide any communication between NZ Police and your office regarding the Youtube Video posted by user IAM THETRUTH on Monday the 24th of May.*

Your request has been considered in accordance with the OIA.

We are unable to release the correspondence you have requested as it relates to a matter that is currently under investigation and prosecution. This correspondence has therefore been withheld under section 6(c) of the OIA, as the making available of this information is likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences and the right to a fair trial.

I can advise that my Office was informed of the video by the Office of Te Pāti Māori on the morning of 24 May 2021, and referred the matter to Police that same morning.

Section 16 of the Policing Act states that the investigation and prosecution of offences are the responsibility of the Commissioner of Police. The Commissioner must act independently of any Ministers of the Crown in discharging this responsibility. Therefore, my Office had no further involvement in this matter beyond sharing information received to Police and back to the Office of Te Pāti Māori.

I note that you have made a similar request to Police and they have provided you with some information regarding this investigation.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with my response to your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Poto Williams', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Hon Poto Williams
Minister of Police