

14 March 2021

Jo
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Dear Jo

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 25 January 2022, in which you asked for information regarding 'Auditors'. You requested the following:

Overseas (particularly prevalent in the UK) there are a significant number of Social Media 'Auditors'. These individuals attend Police Stations and exercise their legal right to film in public.

Auditors are regularly approached by Police and are often arrested/detained/questioned unlawfully. 'Auditors' are well versed in their legal rights. They are often approached by Police Staff and asked to provide their details. When the 'Auditors' decline to provide their details, they are often arrested for failing to provide details even though there is no legal obligation (under those circumstances) to provide them.

The videos are uploaded to Social Media (especially YouTube) and foster significant negative feedback concerning Police. The 'Auditors' often engage in legal proceedings. Police often settle (for significant sums) out of court. Yet the interactions continue and Police fail time and time again to respect the rights and freedoms of the 'Auditors' and labour under the false illusion that members of the public are not allowed to film Police Premises.

This recently prompted a memo from National Police Chiefs Council (UK) to all Police Staff to inform them of the practice and remind Police to use their powers appropriately.

I am writing to you today to request any such internal memo in relation to 'Auditing' in New Zealand. The practice is starting to gain traction here, with the IPCA upholding some complaints by 'Auditors' in relation to unlawful detention. One recent audit involved Inspector Ross Grantham [incorrectly] advising an 'Auditor' that it was illegal to film outside a Police Station.

Sometimes, the 'Audits' are referred to as P.I.P.P tests (Photography in Public Places).

Police should be aware of the basic rights of individuals to film in public and refuse to engage with (or provide personal details) Police. Unlawful questioning / detention / arrest shall not be tolerated by members of the public who are engaging in every day lawful activities even if they choose to conduct those activities outside of Police Stations.

Police National Headquarters

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No such internal memos have been distributed and Police has no specific policy for social media "auditors". Therefore, your request is refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at:

www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Superintendent Dave Greig

Director: Capability
New Zealand Police
