

7 September 2022

S George

fyi-request-20183-49xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx.xxx.xx

Dear S George

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 8 August 2022 requesting information on the New Zealand Police Oath.

My response to each of your question can be found below.

- 1. Please provide me with the Official Oath (word for word) That all sworn New Zealand Police are required to recite as part of becoming a Sworn Police officer in the New Zealand Police.*

A recruit is attested as a sworn officer of Police during their graduation parade. During this parade the Commissioner reads the Oath in English and the Oath is then read in Te Reo Māori by a staff member.

The Commissioner then reads the Affirmation in English and this is again followed by the Affirmation read in Te Reo Māori.

Once these have been read, each recruit's name is then read in full. At this, the recruit steps forward and replies by saying, "Ae" or "I do".

Those employees who take the Oath are required to hold the Bible in their right hand during the reading of the Oath and at the time of affirming their acceptance.

Police Oath used

<p>I swear that I will faithfully and diligently serve Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth of New Zealand, her heirs and successors, without favour or affection, malice or ill-will. While a constable I will, to the best of my power, keep the peace and prevent offences against the peace, and will, to the best of my skill and knowledge, perform all the duties of the office of constable according to law. So help me God.</p>	<p>Tenei au e kī taurangi nei, ka rato pirihonga, urupū hoki ahau i Te Arikiniui, a Irihāpeti, Kuini o Niu Tīreni, me ōna uri whakaheke, i roto i te kore tautoko, kore aroha rānei, kore mahi kino, kore whakaaro kino rānei. I ahau e pirihimana ana ka pōkaikaha ahau ki te hohou i te rongo me te kaupare atu i ngā mahi kotikoti i te rongo, ä, i roto i öku tino pükenga me öku mōhio, ka whakatutuki i ngā mahi kua whakaritea hei mahi mā te pirihimana e ai ki te ture. Nōreira, äwhina mai i ahau e te Atua.</p>
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Police Affirmation used

<p>I solemnly and sincerely affirm that I will faithfully and diligently serve Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth of New Zealand, her heirs and successors, without favour or affection, malice or ill-will. While a constable I will, to the best of my power, keep the peace and prevent offences against the peace, and will, to the best of my skill and knowledge, perform all the duties of the office of constable according to law.</p>	<p>Tenei au e whakaatu pono nei, ka rato piri-honga, urupū hoki ahau i Te Arikinui, a Irihāpeti, Kuini o Niu Tīreni, me ōna uri whakaheke, i roto i te kore tautoko, kore aroha rānei, kore mahi kino, kore whakaaro kino rānei. I ahau e piri-himana ana ka pōkaikaha ahau ki te hohou i te rongo me te kaupare atu I ngā mahi kotikoti i te rongo, ā, i roto i ōku tino pūkenga me ōku mōhio, ka whakatutuki i ngā mahi kua whakaritea hei mahi mā te piri-himana e ai ki te ture.</p>
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2. Are all police officers required to "swear" the Oath?

No person can become a constabulary member of Police without first taking the Oath or Affirmation.

3. Is there an alternative to "swearing the Oath" given for New Zealand Police officers that they are able to take.

As previously indicated, the prospective constabulary employee must take the Oath or alternatively the Affirmation.

4. At what stage of training /serving are they required to take the Oath.

Recruits take the Oath/Affirmation once they have fully completed and passed the initial training course. The ceremony takes place at their graduation parade.

Those employees that re-join the Police but are not required to attend the initial training course are attested once they have completed the training plan prepared by the Royal New Zealand Police College.

5. Is there any legal or employment consequences if a New Zealand Police officer who has 'sworn the Oath' does not act in accordance with the Oath.

It is the duty of every Police employee, regardless of position, to conduct himself or herself in accordance with the code of conduct, prescribed by the Commissioner. A breach of Our Code or Values is managed through a disciplinary process using the principles and processes set out in the Employment Relations Act 2000. It is an expectation of constabulary employees that they always uphold our values and reputation.

6. *Is there more than one Oath. If so please provide wording for all Oaths.*

There is only one Oath and one Affirmation. No alternatives can be used.

If you have any questions, you may contact Ministerial.Services@Police.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Superintendent Warwick Morehu
Director – Training, RNZPC
New Zealand Police