

4 July 2023

Mr King
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Tēnā koe Mr King

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 30 May 2023, in which you requested:

What is the law regarding filming in publicly accessible areas of police stations?

On 1 June 2023 you were contacted to clarify your request. You clarified on the same day that your request refers to filming by members of the public in publicly accessible areas of police stations.

Police does not offer legal advice to members of the public, but I can provide the following explanation of Police's general approach to this matter.

In general terms, a person may record a conversation they are a party to and film in public places, but Police may impose restrictions, where justified, on activities that occur in the foyer of Police stations. A Police station is a place to which the public is generally allowed access, and Police should endeavour to protect sensitive or private conversations being overheard by others. However, it is not uncommon for a person to reveal sensitive information in the foyer before the opportunity arises to take them to a private room. If a person is filming in the station foyer, and it is impacting on the privacy of other members of the public, that might be a situation where Police ask the person filming to come to a private room to access Police services (where they can film their interaction with Police if they wish) or to cease the filming. If they will not comply, Police may deny them access to Police premises if reasonably necessary in the circumstances.

Please note that as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police proactively releases some information and documents that may be of interest to the public. An anonymised version of this response may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Nāku noa, nā



Ian Barnes
Assurance Manager
New Zealand Police