



Vince  
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Ref: PMO 2023-280

Tēnā koe Vince

**Official Information Act request relating to NGCC and LMR communications**

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received on 19 July 2023. You requested:

*"I am writing to request more information about the digital encrypted system that is being implemented, specifically regarding its impact on volunteers or staff who are at home.*

*I am aware that there are individuals who use their own radio equipment in their personal vehicles when responding to emergencies. It is crucial that we do not exclude these dedicated individuals solely because of the introduction of digital encryption. A first responder never switches off, and it is important to maintain the ability to communicate effectively.*

*I am concerned that the implementation of this system will greatly impact off-duty staff who listen to radio communications, and it may reduce rural assistance if they are only permitted to use radio gear at work or in department-issued vehicles or apps. This issue pertains to the police, fire and emergency services, as well as St. John Ambulance.*

*I kindly request a detailed explanation of how this digital encrypted system will affect volunteers and staff who are not at work as well as what measures are being taken to address the potential reduction in rural assistance and the ability of off-duty staff to stay informed.*

*And if the data is kept about Off duty staff attending incidences and there importance for applying first aid and securing the Sean".*

I believe the requested information is more closely connected to the functions of the New Zealand Police. Accordingly, I have decided to transfer your request to the New Zealand Police under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act.

The New Zealand Police has the usual time limits from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AK'.

Andrew Kirton  
Chief of Staff