



31 August 2023

Attention: Amanda Murtagh

By email: [fyi-request-23725-9d518a06@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-23725-9d518a06@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Amanda

**Official information request of 6 August 2023**  
**Our Ref: OIA353/1**

1. We refer to your official information request dated 6 August 2023. It reads:
  1. Who is responsible for holding the Independent Police Complaints Authority to account when they fail to act within the Independent Police Conduct Authority Act 1988?
  2. Where is this transparently explained to New Zealanders?
2. The Independent Police Conduct Authority (**IPCA**) investigates complaints about the New Zealand Police. The IPCA is statutorily independent from Government and the Police, and has responsibilities under the Independent Police Conduct Authority Act 1988, the Crown Entities Act 2004 and the Crimes of Torture Act 1989. The IPCA is accountable only to Parliament. Information about the accountability of the IPCA can be found on its website: <https://www.ipca.govt.nz/Site/about-us/Legislation-and-Accountability.aspx>.
3. It is open to you to write to your local Member of Parliament to express any concerns you may have about the work of the IPCA. The following avenues for raising concerns about the work of the IPCA are also available:
  - 3.1 You can voice your concerns with the IPCA directly, using the Expression of Dissatisfaction form on their website (<https://www.ipca.govt.nz/tools/email.aspx?SECT=dissatisfaction>).
  - 3.2 If you have a complaint about access to personal information held by the IPCA, you can contact the Privacy Commissioner (<https://www.privacy.org.nz/about-us/contact-us/>).
  - 3.3 If you have a complaint about access to official information held by the IPCA, you can contact the Ombudsman (<https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/contact-ombudsman>).

4. If you require legal advice about a specific IPCA decision affecting your rights, Crown Law cannot assist because we provide legal advice and representation services to the government. If you need legal assistance, you can visit the New Zealand Law Society's website ([www.lawsociety.org.nz](http://www.lawsociety.org.nz)) where there is information on searching for a lawyer. Or you can call the Law Society on (04) 472 7837.
5. Alternatively, you can visit your local Citizens Advice Bureau or Community Law Centre, which may be able to provide assistance with finding a lawyer or making a complaint. You can find the location of your local Citizens Advice Bureau by visiting [www.cab.org.nz](http://www.cab.org.nz) or calling 0800 367 222, and the location of your local Community Law Centre by visiting <http://communitylaw.org.nz>.
6. We provide these links for your assistance. However, as this information is publicly available, your request under the Official Information Act 1982 is refused under s 18(d).
7. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this Official Information Act decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours faithfully

**Crown Law**



Anna Bloomfield  
Crown Counsel