

21 August 2023

Mason Helm
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Dear Mason

Request for Information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 7 August 2023, in which you asked for further information regarding Police's auditing of its access to Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems.

In your request you asked Police to:

Please provide further clarity and information on what is meant by the Police's statement that all live ANPR alerts have been audited.

Including specifically whether "audit" includes confirming that a live alert was lawfully authorised (under a tracking warrant / warrant exemption).

You provided the following context:

On 10/06/2023 I requested information on the number of active detection ANPR alerts (Live alerts / 'tracking function') conducted under the different statutory authorities that are available to the Police for those types of searches: tracking warrants, warrantless tracking warrant uses, and [questionably] confined Privacy Act exemptions (<https://fyi.org.nz/request/23086-anpr-audit-results-auror-vgrid-surveillance-device-warrants-privacy-act-production-orders-re-request-2>).

The Police could not provide me with that information despite stating that "every ... use of [the] ANPR tracking functionality was audited, from ... 2018 ... [to] October 2022" in the audit summary completed December 2022 (<https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/police-use-anpr-platforms-audit-report.pdf> at 2).

I note that the purpose of the audit was "to verify that authorised Police staff are accessing externally provided ANPR data in appropriate ways" (<https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/anpr-faqs.pdf>) but your previous response suggests that the authority data may not have been audited.

We confirm every Police use of ANPR active detection ("tracking") functionality was audited in our most recent audit between the dates specified. Our auditing processes included several techniques to examine the data. The methodology used is provided in the previously published audit report which you have referred to. As identified in the audit findings of the report, there were a total of four cases which were assessed as requiring specific follow up to ascertain their appropriateness of use.

Police National Headquarters

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I hope you find this clarification helpful. You may also ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with Police's response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Carla Gilmore
Manager: New Technology Assurance