

IR-01-23-28340

31 October 2023

Mark

[fyi-request-24054-324d68a9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-24054-324d68a9@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Kia ora Mark

***Request for information***

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 6 September 2023, in which you requested:

*Could you please answer the following questions with respect to covert human intelligence sources (CHIS)?*

- 1. Between 2018 and 2022, how often was CHIS information used to disrupt drug importations into New Zealand?*
- 2. Between 2018 and 2022, how often was CHIS information used to disrupt threats to life (e.g., terrorism) in New Zealand?*
- 3. Between 2018 and 2022, how often was CHIS information used to seize firearms that were being illegally possessed in New Zealand?*

*Please also provide a breakdown of these statistics by year within the ranges requested.*

*I seek this information to make comparisons to similar data released in the UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covert-human-intelligence-sources-draft-code-of-practice/covert-human-intelligence-sources-bill-factsheet-accessible-version>.*

I would note that statute in the United Kingdom (UK) is different to New Zealand. The article in the link you provide for comparison deals with a Bill (Covert Human Intelligence Sources Bill) that amended legislation in the UK that has no New Zealand comparison. Unlike the UK, in New Zealand there are no circumstances where Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) are authorised to commit criminal activity, as is the case in the link provided.

Information relating to Police informants is sensitive information. If Police was to release specific details about cases, that would provide the opportunity for criminals to identify CHIS, which puts them at risk. CHIS are reliant on Police to maintain their confidentiality, and this includes ensuring the content of their information is protected so as their identities are not able to be established. To release the information you have requested

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**Police National Headquarters**

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would risk identifying CHIS, which could put them in danger and also reduce Police's ability to investigate cases. Your request is therefore refused pursuant to the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(c) – the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
- 6(d) - the making available of that information would be likely to endanger the safety of any person.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Anderson', written in a cursive style.

Steve Anderson  
Detective Inspector  
National Criminal Investigations