

22 January 2016

Alex Harris

[fyi-request-2507-333073c1@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-2507-333073c1@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Harris

Police has been liaising with the Ombudsman's Office about a complaint concerning your request of 18 February 2015 that asked for the following:

"All information relating to surveillance of any courtsiders, including training material, what social media accounts of keywords were monitored, and all communications to and from the police about it;"

This request was initially refused in reliance upon section 6(c) of the Official Information Act. This was because revealing how Police conduct surveillance or monitor social media in the public arena may allow those who seek to carry out illegal activity in New Zealand to adapt their counter surveillance techniques.

However, I can advise that there was no 'surveillance' of suspected 'court siders'. Social media was scanned for 'Pitch' and 'Court' siders, but search terms were not saved so it is not know what other words may have been used. Your request is therefore refused in reliance upon section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.

The only other information located that is relevant to your request is the paragraph that follows:

"Court-siding refers to the practice where a spectator locates themselves within the venue during the match or game and relay information of incidents during the game via electronic means; typically laptop, tablet or cellphone/smart-phone. The purpose of court-siding is to provide overseas bookies with an advantage over the transmission of the game via satellite, up to approximately 17 seconds. Again, the focus is the manipulation and utilisation of shifting betting odds to gain financial advantage. The court-sider may also take advantage of this information by placing live bets on overseas based betting websites themselves. While court-siding is frowned upon it is not illegal under Section 240A of the Crimes Act 1961 as there is no manipulation of the match/competition."

You have the right to complain to the Ombudsman if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Manderson', is written over the typed name and title.

Superintendent Sandra Manderson  
National Manager: International Services Group