

12 July 2024

Cooper O'Neil
fyi-request-27176-1b88a790@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Cooper

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 7 June 2024. You asked for information regarding the use of robots in Nov 2010 during the Pike River Mine incident.

My response to each part of your request can be found below.

1. *All communication with U.S. and Australian officials regarding the sourcing/procurement of the robots used in Nov. 2010 during the Pike River Mine incident.*

Please find attached 10 pages of communications with U.S and Australian officials regarding the sourcing/procurement of the robots used in November 2010 during the Pike River Mine incident. Please note redactions have been made to these communications under the following sections of the OIA:

6(c): as the making available of the information is likely to prejudice the maintenance of law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences and right to a fair trial.

9(2)(a): to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

(9)(2)(g): to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown and employees in the course of their duty.

2. *Copies of invoices paid relating to the sourcing/procurement of the robots.*

There were no invoices paid specifically to the sourcing/procurement of the robots, however Water Corporation Western Australia appears to have been paid \$142,833.98 indemnity in November 2011.

3. Any other information regarding the robots. E.g model would be very helpful as well.

The following table contains the known details of the Robots used.

Unit Name	Unit Specifications	Ownership
Water Corporation Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) (Vehicle 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Width including wheels, approximately 1000mm • Height to top of main vehicle approximately 950mm • Height overall approximately 1300mm • Vehicle weight (no batteries) approximately 800kg • Battery weight (10 x M12v105FT @39kg each), approximately 400kg • Total weight approximately 1200kg • Four-wheel drive with independent clutches and tubeless pneumatic tyres • Tow points at front and rear 400mm above ground with 20mm hole for shackle attachment • Lifting points are installed but should not be used • Attachment to outside of mine by 7mm Kevlar reinforced fibre optic umbilical 	Australia's Water Corporation
Water Corporation Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) (Vehicle 2):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length, approximately 1000mm • Width including wheels, approximately 600mm. • Height overall approximately 350mm • Total weight approximately 40kg 	Australia's Water Corporation
Water Corporation Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) (Vehicle 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length, approximately 1000mm • Width including wheels, approx. 300mm • Height overall approx. 350mm • Total weight approximately 50kg 	Australia's Water Corporation
Wheelbarrow Revolution MKS (Army robot 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Height-1m • Width - 0.65m • Weight - approximately 290kg 	NZDF
Wheelbarrow Revolution MKS (Army robot 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Height-1m • Width - 0.65m • Weight - approximately 290kg 	NZDF
<i>Note:</i> No Robots were supplied by Mine Safety and Health Administration US.		

Police considers the interests requiring protection by withholding the information are not outweighed by any public interest in release of the information.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Allison Barty
Project Officer - National Criminal Investigations Group
New Zealand Police



Grant Wormald
Detective Inspector
Operation Pike River, Investigations Manager
New Zealand Police

Re: MSHA Hotline Call

s.9(2)(a) OIA

22/11/2010 21:43

to Jason.Ross
:

Got it!

From: Jason.Ross@police.govt.nz
To: s.9(2)(a) OIA
Sent: Mon Nov 22 21:39:07 2010

[Show Details](#)

Subject: Fw: MSHA Hotline Call

Hi s.9(2)(a) OIA.

Great talking. We have received a request from our Incident Commander for assistance from the USA in respect to a specialised mine rescue robot that the MSHA (Mine Safety & health administration)

have....the email chain below outlines our contact in the MSHA, s.9(2)(a) OIA The MSHA has already

formally offered their assistance (see below) and directed us to deal through the US state dept.

Please treat this as a formal request for assistance from the MSHA and we would be pleased if you could assist us in progressing our request to the MSHA for the use of their mine robot, through the US State Dept.

I presume that this would have to come with an operator given its specialised nature. I would also be interested in any thoughts about how quickly we can get the robot to NZ.

Regards

Jason Ross | Support Manager: General Policing | Police National HQ | New Zealand Police s.9(2)(a) OIA
| jason.ross@police.govt.nz | 180 Molesworth Street | P.O. Box 3017 | Wellington

----- Forwarded by Jason Ross/POLICE/NZ on 22/11/2010 21:30 -----

From: s.9(2)(a) OIA
To: <Jason.Ross@police.govt.nz>
Date: 22/11/2010 09:24
Subject: Re: MSHA Hotline Call

Thank you Jason, are there any new developments? Also, what is Ms. Harris's email address? s.9(2)(g)

Sent using BlackBerry
-----Original Message-----

From: Jason.Ross@police.govt.nz <Jason.Ross@police.govt.nz>
To: s.9(2)(a) OIA MSHA
CC: Helen.Harris@police.govt.nz <Helen.Harris@police.govt.nz>
Sent: Sun Nov 21 15:16:16 2010
Subject: Re: MSHA Hotline Call

Hi s.9(2)(g) ..

I have completed the briefing of the relevant people and I have now changed shifts. Helen Harris has taken over from me.....she has been fully briefed and will be your contact over the next 12 hours....

Regards

Jason Ross | Support Manager: General Policing | Police National HQ | New Zealand Police

DDI: s.9(2)(a) OIA | xxxxx.xxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx | 180 Molesworth Street | P.O. Box 3017 | Wellington

From: s.9(2)(a) OIA [REDACTED]
To: <xxxxx.xxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>
Cc: s.9(2)(a) OIA [REDACTED]

Date: 22/11/2010 06:14
Subject: Re: MSHA Hotline Call

Thanks Jason,

I will wait for you next communication.

s.9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Sent using BlackBerry

-----Original Message-----

From: Jxxxx.xxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx <xxxxx.xxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>

s.9(2)(a) OIA [REDACTED]

Sent: Sun Nov 21 11:58:42 2010
Subject: Re: MSHA Hotline Call

Hi s.9(2)(a) OIA [REDACTED].

Your Assistant Secretaries offer of formal assistance is much appreciated and formally noted. I will ensure that he is advised of this at the earliest opportunity and I will also ensure that the Assistant Commissioner of New Zealand Police is also advised of your kind offer of assistance.

I intend to brief the IC and the Assistant Commissioner at 0700 hours (NZ time) (1 hour from now) about overnight

activities and I will be asking them if they would like to make contact with you (as that is not my call). s.6(c) OIA

Regards

Jason Ross | Support Manager: General Policing | Police National HQ | New Zealand Police

s.9(2)(a) OIA | jason.ross@police.govt.nz | 180 Molesworth Street | P.O. Box 3017 | Wellington

From: s.9(2)(a) OIA
To: <Jason.Ross@police.govt.nz>
Cc: s.9(2)(a) OIA

Date: 22/11/2010 05:44
Subject: Re: MSHA Hotline Call

Jason,

Our Assistant Secretary for MSHA, s.9(2)(a) OIA would like to contact the highest ranking mining official to formally offer assistance. Please provide the contact information for that person.

Also, if we could have that conference call soon with the incident commander s.9(2)(a) OIA and I may be able to offer additional advice. s.6(c) OIA

Thanks,

Sent using BlackBerry

-----Original Message-----

From: Jason.Ross@police.govt.nz <Jason.Ross@police.govt.nz>
To: s.9(2)(a) OIA
Sent: Sun Nov 21 11:07:01 2010
Subject: Re: MSHA Hotline Call

Thankyou s.9(2)(a) OIA

We will back in touch in the next hour or so during which time I will brief the Incident Commander. I will be directed by him. I understand that we will be having a tele conference with s.9(2)(a) OIA later today and I would

hope that we can include you in that conference.... s.6(c) OIA

We really appreciate your counsel around this s.9(2)(b) I look forward to speaking with you later today....

Regards

Jason Ross | Support Manager: General Policing | Police National HQ | New Zealand Police

s.9(2)(a) OIA | jason.ross@police.govt.nz | 180 Molesworth Street | P.O. Box 3017 | Wellington

From: s.9(2)(a) OIA
To: <Jason.Ross@police.govt.nz>
Cc: s.9(2)(a) OIA

Date: 22/11/2010 04:37
Subject: Re: MSHA Hotline Call

Hi Jason,

Yes, I know s.9(2)(a) OIA. s.9(2)(g) OIA

Our robot is battery operated over a fiber optic tether with a maximum range of 3000 feet (about 1000 meters). It would have to be operated from the surface or from a safe fresh air base underground. In this case the robot would need to be operated from the surface due to the risk of secondary explosions underground.

In order to get our robot to New Zealand a formal request would need to be sent to our State Department, working with our embassy in New Zealand. Australia did have a robot at one time. I haven't heard much about it lately.

I will be glad to talk with you. I would also like to have our Chief, Mine Emergency Operations, s.9(2)(a) OIA on a conference call. My cell phone number is s.9(2)(a) OIA.

Please setup at time for the conference call and we will plan to be available when you call.

s.9(2)(g) OIA

I will look forward to talking to you and others soon.

s.9(2)(a)

Sent using BlackBerry

-----Original Message-----

From: Jason.Ross@police.govt.nz <Jason.Ross@police.govt.nz>

To: s.9(2)(a) OIA

Sent: Sun Nov 21 08:49:07 2010

Subject: Re: MSHA Hotline Call

Hi

Thanks for your prompt reply. I have tried to answer your questions the best I can....refer blue text below....

Regards

Jason Ross | Support Manager: General Policing | Police National HQ | New Zealand Police

s.9(2)(a) OIA | jason.ross@police.govt.nz | 180 Molesworth Street | P.O. Box 3017 | Wellington

From: s.9(2)(a) OIA
To: <jason.ross@police.govt.nz>
Cc: s.9(2)(a) OIA
Date: 22/11/2010 02:03
Subject: MSHA Hotline Call

Hello Inspector Ross,

My name is s.9(2)(a) OIA. s.9(2)(a) OIA t. We received the Hotline call from you inquiring about the MSHA mine rescue robot. I can provide information about our robot. What specifically do you want to know?

s.6(c) OIA

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

s.6(c) OIA

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

I am sure that we will have more questions for each other later.

s.9(2)(a) OIA

[Redacted]

Sent using BlackBerry

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**Police National Headquarters
PO Box 3017
Wellington 6011**

24 November 2010

s.9(2)(a) OIA

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Private Bag 18-901
WELLINGTON

Dear **s.9(2)(a) OIA**

**REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATE OF AMERICA FOR
OPERATION PIKE - PIKE RIVER MINE EXPLOSION**

The United States of America have offered an intrinsically safe robot to assist in the rescue activity at Pike River Mine. It is the only intrinsically safe robot that has been made available and is urgently required.

Discussions have taken place regarding the availability and delivery of the robot to New Zealand. Therefore, New Zealand Police seeks the assistance of the United States to make available the robot and support resources from its point of origin, Pittsburg, United States of America to New Zealand. The robot will need to be returned to the United States at the conclusion of its deployment.

If you require further detail, please advise me accordingly

Thank you for your assistance

Yours sincerely

Geoff Logan
Inspector:
NEW ZEALAND POLICE

To
New Zealand Police Pike River Operations

Please find below estimated cost recovery rates for the Water Corporations Tunnel Inspection Vehicle.

The Water Corporation would like to work under an open book direct cost +10% cost recovery process.

All accommodation, transportation, final demobilisation and site support supplied by the police operations

All damage incurred to the ROV during hazardous operations will need to be recovered

ROV Equipment standby rate 16-12-2010 to 10-01-2011	\$0.00
ROV Equipment standby rate 10-01-2011 to 28-02-2011	\$1,000/week
ROV Equipment standby rate 01-03-2011 to 30-06-2011	\$3,500/week,
Operational day rate including Inc personal	\$6,377

Vehicle operational limitations would be a maximum temperature of 70 degrees with the humidity no greater than 80% the above figures will be verified by 18-12-2010.

Preparation time within Greymouth will be required prior to deployment to site to ensure success of inspection

Regards

s.9(2)(a) OIA

