

31 May 2022

Gaye Gardner
ringoson1953@gmail.com

Dear Gaye

Request for information

Thank you for your request of 6 May 2022, in which you requested the following:

I am seeking information relating to use of EMF in New Zealand. Please return following information under the Official Information Act.

- 1. Has the use of EMF been authorised for use in NZ?*
- 2. Was EMF used during the protest in Wellington?*
- 3. If used, for what duration was it used, and who authorised it?*

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), and I can now provide the following response.

I understand an EMF (electromagnetic field) is a physical phenomenon rather than a device. EMFs exist as a result of natural processes, as well as being produced by some human created devices. For example, every device that utilises electricity will produce an EMF.

Police does not employ tactics utilising EMF.

As you may be aware, the Independent Police Conduct Authority (IPCA) has commenced an independent investigation and review (Review) of the policing of the occupation on and around Parliament grounds in Wellington during February and March 2022 (Protest).

Details of the scope of the Review are available on the IPCA's website¹ and you will note this scope includes Police planning and preparation of its response to the Protest. This includes staff selection, training, operational guidance, equipment, and technology provided to officers who policed the Protest.

Whilst this Review is underway, information relating to the issues under investigation and review is expected to be the subject of examination by the IPCA under its powers of investigation under the IPCA Act 1988. With this Review commenced, there is a strong public interest in allowing these matters to be considered in the round by the IPCA.

The IPCA anticipates the Review will be completed and reported on by 31 March 2023. Police recognises the importance of transparency in these matters and looks forward to the release of the IPCA's report, at which time more detailed information regarding the Police response to the Protest is likely to be publicly available.

¹ <https://www.ipca.govt.nz/Site/publications-and-media/2022-media-releases/2022-mar-24-investigation-review-occupation-parliament.aspx>

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
Telephone: 04 474 9499. www.police.govt.nz

Please note that as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police proactively releases some information and documents that may be of interest to the public. An anonymised version of this response may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



David Greig
Superintendent
New Zealand Police