

10 February 2025

C Smith
fyi-request-29372-e0ae7c9b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe C Smith

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 29 December 2024. You asked for information regarding the police presence in Matapihi, Bay of Plenty during the event held there.

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

1. *What cultural advice (if any) had been sought prior to this police presence?*
Police spoke with representatives from both Waikari Marae and Huria Marae. Police activity was deliberately kept away from these location and mourners who were not committing any offences were waved through the checkpoint without being stopped.

Police had Iwi and Community connected to the operation, including the Maori Responsiveness Manager and an Iwi Liaison Sergeant

2. *Had there been any complaints made to police relating to the Matapihi area on 28/11/2024, prior to the police presence - if so, what was the nature of the complaint(s)?*

There had been no complaints made by the public in the Matapihi area prior to the police deployment.

Police were deployed in a prevention role to stop disruption to the public and any offending from occurring.

Prior to the deployment in Matapihi on 28 November 2024 police had made three arrests of Mongrel Mob members who were displaying gang insignia, as well as an arrest of a gang member for an unrelated shoplifting.

Three motorbikes had also been seized in Matapihi after allegedly being used to disrupt traffic and block roads across Tauranga

3. *What risk(s) to public safety in Matapihi (a closed access area consisting mainly of private residences) had been identified that warranted such great numbers of police and the presence of the police helicopter to "monitor movements"?*

Police had received information that many gang members were going to be present at the tangi, during the procession, and at the crematorium.

The number of gang members present provided an opportunity for breaching the Gangs Act 2004 by wearing their patches and displaying insignia, and to disrupt and endanger the public by driving and riding dangerously.

With a previous recent gang tangi in Bay of Plenty where large groups of attendees behaved unlawfully, a police presence was felt necessary to ensure public safety.

Several weapons were seized from gang members during the operation, including two sawn-off shotguns.

The operation was successful, with the vast majority of mourners behaving lawfully. This is in stark contrast to behaviour at the previous recent gang tangi in Bay of Plenty.

4. *A media source (SunLive) reported between 50 and 200 police were deployed. - How many police-persons were sent to Matapihi?*

126 police staff and a helicopter were deployed to Matapihi.

5. *How many staff in total were involved in this exercise?*

A further 29 police staff were deployed at different locations during the tangi procession. There was a total of 155 police staff involved, excluding helicopter crew members.

6. *- What was the combined cost of the police helicopter and the police presence in Matapihi while "police maintained a visible presence in Matapihi ..."?*

The calculated cost for the use of the Police helicopter and the police presence in Matapihi on 27 and 28 November 2024 was approximately \$65k.

The above is correct as of 23 January 2025, it includes the estimated cost of Police helicopter, travel, accommodation, and allowances, captured in a specific operational project code. Police is unable to provide the total cost for staff wages as these tasks are part of Police's core function and not captured by the specific project code. For example, staff deployment to the investigation and their respective working hours and salary would not be recorded as relating to the specific operation, rather it is treated as business as usual. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA that the information requested is not held.

7. *Could you please provide any correspondence (emails/texts/comms) regarding this event and the date the first correspondence was made regarding this specific event.*

On 25 November 2024, police became aware that there was likely to be a gang tangi somewhere in Tauranga.

Planning was commenced on 26 November 2024, although at that stage it was not clear where and when the tangi would take place.

On 27 November 2024 the deceased's body was moved to Waikari Marae in Matapihi and it was confirmed that the tangi was likely to take place the following day.

Please find relevant correspondence. Some information in the attached has been withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(c): as the making available of the 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.

- 9(2)(a): as the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.
- 9(2)(g)(i): as the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to officers and employees of the Police in the course of their duty.
- 9(2)(g)(ii): as the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

Some other correspondence identified in scope of your request has been refused under section 6(c) of the OIA.

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

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 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.

Nāku noa, nā

SSCW04

SSCW04
Senior Analyst Information Requests
New Zealand Police

From: s 9(2)(a) OIA
To: RAWLINSON, Craig
Subject: Ned Kelly Death.
Date: Monday, 25 November 2024 9:01:34 AM

Craig

I understand Ned Kelly passed away in the weekend. s 9(2)(a) OIA This will likely be a big funeral. s 9(2)(a) OIA seems to think this will be at a marae in welcome bay. Suggest a Local Senior should be assigned to this planning. s 6(c) OIA

s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA

Bay of Plenty Head Quarters, Fenton Street, PO Box 741, Rotorua, www.police.govt.nz
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From: s 9(2)(a) OIA
To: [ANDERSON, s 9\(2\)\(a\) OIA \(Tim\)](#)
Cc: [RAWLINSON, Craig](#)
Subject: Numbers so far
Date: Thursday, 28 November 2024 3:16:39 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Tim

We're still collating info from various teams and sources but this is what we've got so far from today:

14 Arrests (s 6(c) OIA) (6 for insignia)

26 IONS

3 Pink Stickers

(s 6(c) OIA)

2 Firearms

1 Vehicle impounded

(s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA)



From: s 9(2)(a) OIA
To: DCC BOP; RAWLINSON, Craig; s 9(2)(a) OIA
Cc: s 9(2)(a) OIA
Subject: RE:
Date: Monday, 25 November 2024 11:44:33 AM

s 9(2)(a) OIA
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Will be in touch.

Nga Mihi



s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA, s 9(2)(a) OIA

From: s 9(2)(a) OIA
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 9:40 AM
To: DCC BOP; s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA; RAWLINSON, Craig; s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Subject:

Kiaora Team.

s 9(2)(a) OIA and his team dealt with s 9(2)(a) OIA

s 6(c) OIA this Tangi will be significant as he's a leader for Notorious Chapter but also a founding member of the Tauranga Chapter. Large numbers are expected s 6(c) OIA

[Redacted]

s 6(c) OIA [redacted] and we are looking to go and meet with the leaders hopefully today and discuss expectations, timings and locations to assist both sides to ensure the Tangi goes off as offence free as possible. The overall messages from our discussions so far are mixed about the Patch and Isignia laws.

s 9(2)(a) OIA [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

s 6(c) OIA, s 9(2)(a) OIA [redacted]
[redacted]

Then onto Waikari Marae, Matapihi (to be confirmed).

Will have more information when we speak with the leaders.

Nga Mihi



s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA, s 9(2)(a) OIA [redacted]

11-15 Monmouth Street, Tauranga www.police.govt.nz

From: RAWLINSON, Craig
To: s 9(2)(a) OIA
Cc: ANDERSON, s 9(2)(a) OIA (Tim)
Subject: RE: Op Future gang funeral
Date: Wednesday, 27 November 2024 5:33:00 PM
Attachments: image010.png
image011.png
image012.png
image013.png
image014.png
image015.png
image016.png
image017.png
image018.png
image019.png

Hi all, happy as well

Operation file number is 241126/9365

Thanks



Detective Inspector Craig Rawlinson
Relieving Area Commander | Western Bay of Plenty | New Zealand Police
s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
Tauranga Police, Monmouth Street, Tauranga, PO Box 144, Tauranga 3140, www.police.govt.nz

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From: s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 4:19 PM
To: Media <Media@police.govt.nz>
Cc: RAWLINSON, Craig s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(i) OIA; ANDERSON, s 9(2)(a) OIA (Tim) s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(i) OIA
Subject: RE: Op Future gang funeral

Hi,
Happy with that.
Regards



s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA, s 9(2)(a) OIA

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From: Media <Media@police.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 3:27 PM
To: s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
Cc: RAWLINSON, Craig s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA; ANDERSON, s 9(2)(a) OIA (Tim) s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
Subject: RE: Op Future gang funeral

H s 9(2)(a) OIA is travelling up to BoP at the moment but in previous releases we've used the following wording: *If you have immediate concerns for your safety, please call 111. If you are reporting matters after the fact, please contact 105 either [online](#) or over the phone, referencing file number #####/####*

Here's an updated version of the release with that wording – let us know if you're happy with the rest of it:

Attributable to Detective Inspector Craig Rawlinson, Acting Western Bay of Plenty Area Commander:

Police will have additional resources and will be maintaining an increased presence in Tauranga tomorrow, monitoring a gang connected funeral.

Following the death of a prominent Mongrel Mob member gang members and associates are expected to travel into Western Bay of Plenty area to pay their respects.

While it is important to provide a space for family and friends to pay their respects, we want to remind those planning to attend the funeral to make smart decisions and not publicly display gang insignia.

Additional staff from across Bay of Plenty and other districts will be in the Tauranga area tomorrow to support Western Bay of Plenty Police.

We will maintain an increased presence monitoring gang members and associates' movements and will be ready to respond if required.

No unlawful activity will be accepted including breaches of the new Gangs Act which came into effect last week.

If you have immediate concerns for your safety, please call 111. If you are reporting matters after the fact, please contact 105 either [online](#) or over the phone, referencing file number #####/####

Ngā mihi

s 9(2)(a) OIA

Police Media Team
Police National Headquarters, Wellington

AKI [REDACTED]

s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA



From: s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 3:21 PM
To: Media <Media@police.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Op Future gang funeral

H: s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(g)(i) OIA

Regards



s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA, s 9(2)(a) OIA

www.police.govt.nz

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From: Media <Media@police.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 3:17 PM
To: s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(i) OIA ; ANDERSON, s 9(2)(a) OIA (Tim) s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(i) OIA ; RAWLINSON, Craig
s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
Subject: FW: Op Future gang funeral

Hey Craig,

Just following up to see if we are in a position to issue the below this afternoon?

A minor amendment has been made to the first line.

s 9(2)(a) OIA @ANDERSON, s 9(2)(a) OIA (Tim) Just running the below release for tonight past you before we issue it. Are you comfortable with the below?

Attributable to Detective Inspector Craig Rawlinson, Acting Western Bay of Plenty Area Commander:

Police will have additional resources and will be maintaining an increased presence in Tauranga tomorrow, monitoring a gang connected funeral.

Following the death of a prominent Mongrel Mob member gang members and associates are expected to travel into Western Bay of Plenty area to pay their respects.

While it is important to provide a space for family and friends to pay their respects, we want to remind those planning to attend the funeral to make smart decisions and not publicly display gang insignia.

Additional staff from across Bay of Plenty and other districts will be in the Tauranga area tomorrow to support Western Bay of Plenty Police.

We will maintain an increased presence monitoring gang members and associates' movements and will be ready to respond if required.

No unlawful activity will be accepted including breaches of the new Gangs Act which came into effect last week.

If you witness any unlawful activity please contact Police, you can report information to 111.

ENDS

Thanks,

[Redacted]

Police Media Team
Piki Kī Te Ao, Ōtāhuhu

Police National Headquarters, Wellington

[Redacted]

www.police.govt.nz



From: Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 12:40 PM
To: RAWLINSON, Craig s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
Cc: s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
Subject: RE: Op Future gang funeral

Thanks Craig,

I will wait to hear back.

Regarding the second release we could potentially just mention that added detail in a later update tomorrow morning? Then we have this one as an early morning release?

Otherwise we could just briefly say: A service is due to be held in Judea following a mid-morning procession from Brookfield.

From: RAWLINSON, Craig **s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA**
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 12:30 PM
To: Media <Media@police.govt.nz>; **s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA**
Subject: RE: Op Future gang funeral

Hi there

Thanks for that – I'm happy with the first release as it is, but there is a body movement going on as we speak so we'll hold off putting it out until I get back to you please.

We'll probably delete out the portion I've marked in red font for tomorrow's release...

Get back to you soon

Thanks

Craig



Detective Inspector Craig Rawlinson
Relieving Area Commander | Western Bay of Plenty | New Zealand Police
s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
Tauranga Police, Monmouth Street, Tauranga, PO Box 144, Tauranga 3140, www.police.govt.nz

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From: Media <Media@police.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 12:13 PM
To: RAWLINSON, Craig **s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA**
Cc: **s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA**
Subject: Op Future gang funeral

Hey Craig,

Touching base before the Tangi tomorrow. I have drafted the below releases for review to put out on our District Facebook page and out to media this afternoon and early tomorrow morning.

s 9(2)(g)(i) OIA

I have included the drafts below for review, let me know your thoughts.

Feel free to give me a call or **s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA**.

This Afternoon:

Please see the draft below for review.

Attributable to Detective Inspector Craig Rawlinson, Acting Western Bay of Plenty Area Commander:

Police will have additional resources and will be maintaining an increased presence in Tauranga tomorrow, monitoring a gang connected funeral.

Following the death of a prominent Mongrel Mob member gang members and associates are expected to travel into Western Bay of Plenty area to pay their respects.

While it is important to provide a space for family and friends to pay their respects, we want to remind those planning to attend the funeral to make smart decisions and not publicly display gang insignia.

Additional staff from across Bay of Plenty and other districts will be in the Tauranga area tomorrow to support Western Bay of Plenty Police.

We will maintain an increased presence monitoring gang members and associates' movements and will be ready to respond if required.

No unlawful activity will be accepted including breaches of the new Gangs Act which came into effect last week.

If you witness any unlawful activity please contact Police, you can report information to 111.

ENDS

Release tomorrow morning, a few highlights in red.

Eagle Helicopter to support Western Bay of Plenty Police monitoring gang funeral.

Attributable to Detective Inspector Craig Rawlinson, Acting Western Bay of Plenty Area Commander:

The Police Eagle helicopter will be in the Western Bay of Plenty area today monitoring the gang funeral of a prominent Mongrel Mob member.

s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(i) OIA

Members of the public can expect some traffic disruption across Tauranga this morning leading into the afternoon, and are asked to report any unlawful activity.

Yesterday we monitored gang members and associates arriving into the Western Bay of Plenty District.

s 9(2)(g)(i) OIA

If you witness any unlawful or suspicious activity, Please contact Police on 111.

Information can also be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

ENDS

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Police Media Team

Piki Ki Te Ao, Otāhuhu

Police National Headquarters, Wellington

[REDACTED]

www.police.govt.nz



From: Media
To: ANDERSON, s.9(2)(a) OIA (Tim); RAWLINSON, Craig; s 9(2)(a) OIA
Cc: s 9(2)(a) OIA
Subject: Re: Operation Future release for tomorrow morning
Date: Thursday, 28 November 2024 5:31:37 AM

Thanks Tim, are you happy to be attributed to the statement?

s 9(2)(a) OIA are you happy with the below?

[Redacted]

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From: ANDERSON, s.9(2)(a) OIA (Tim) s.9(2)(a) OIA, s.9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 8:31:36 PM
To: Media <@xx>; RAWLINSON, Craig s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA, s 9(2)(a) OIA
Cc: s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
Subject: Re: Operation Future release for tomorrow morning

Reads well thank you

Tim

From: Media s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 8:18:25 PM
To: RAWLINSON, Craig s.9(2)(a) OIA, s.9(2)(g)(ii) OIA ANDERSON, s.9(2)(a) OIA (Tim) s.9(2)(a) OIA, s.9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
Cc: s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 9(2)(g)(ii) OIA
Subject: Operation Future release for tomorrow morning

Hey Craig, Tim, s 9(2)(a) OIA

Following today's action and with Eagle flying down tomorrow, I have edited the below draft release for tomorrow morning.

Are you comfortable with something along the lines of the below? Feel free to make any edits/changes.

Police Eagle helicopter to support Police monitoring gang funeral

Attributable to Detective Inspector Craig Rawlinson, Acting Western Bay of Plenty Area Commander:

The Police Eagle helicopter will be in the Western Bay of Plenty area today monitoring the gang funeral of a prominent Mongrel Mob member.

Police have called in extra staff and additional resources to have an increased

presence and are ready to respond to unlawful activity if it arises.

Members of the public can expect traffic disruption across Tauranga this morning, leading into the afternoon.

Yesterday, 27 November, Police were monitoring the movements of gang members and associates across Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty but observed no incidents of note. The majority of attendees were displaying good judgement and not engaging in unlawful activity.

However, three Mongrel Mob members, two aged 32 and one aged 31, didn't get the message and were arrested after wearing various items of clothing displaying Mongrel Mob insignia. They are due to appear in the Tauranga District Court on Monday 2 December.

A 32-year-old patched **Eastside [Eastside or East Side?]** member was arrested on unrelated charges of shoplifting.

Police have been running checkpoints across the district and were watching as a convoy carrying the deceased drove through Tauranga. Three motorbikes were seized after allegedly being used to disrupt traffic and block roads across Tauranga.

We ask that attendees paying their respects today make good choices. There is no place for unlawful activity and we will take enforcement action against anyone breaking the law.

If you see any unlawful activity please contact Police and provide as much detail as you can.

If you have immediate concerns for your safety, please call 111. If you are reporting matters after the fact, please contact 105 either [online](#) or over the phone, referencing file number 241126/9365.

Ends

Thanks,

