



**OPERATION GROUP  
POLICE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

2 July 2012

Mr B Steen  
C/- fyi-requests-342-431aOaf1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Sir

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982, re Police Officers identification.

You requested:

1. What supplementary forms of evidence of identity, in terms of s.96 (4) of the Policing Act 2008, are currently in use within the Police for Police employees who would be generally regarded as 'uniformed officers'? For the avoidance of doubt, this question does not seek information about the identification documents described in reg 4 of the Policing Regulations 2008.
2. What regulations, policies, or other internal guidelines exist concerning the supplementary forms of evidence of identity referred to in Question 1, and what is their content?

I can advise the NZ Police use two general forms of identification for uniformed officers, these are:

- A Police ID card, which (as required by regulation 4 of the Policing Regulations 2008) contains the name and registration number of the Constable along with a photograph of the constable.
- A badge number (which is designated for that particular officer) for those member of S/Sgt rank and below is worn when they are wearing uniform on Police epaulettes. The epaulettes are worn, one on each shoulder of their uniform. The epaulettes may be different, as these also show the rank of the constable. The numbers are either on a round black disc or an oblong piece of metal, both of which have the officers' registration number engraved on them. A name badge is also provided for staff to wear and if not wearing a badge number a name tag should be displayed.

The NZ Police Commercial Vehicles Investigation Unit Officers, also carry an additional identification card which consists of a photograph ID and name declaring them Inspectors under a specific Act, i.e.:

- Dangerous Goods Enforcement officers, these identification cards are only used when specifically carrying out duties associated with Dangerous Goods.

The carrying of these identification cards or wearing of name tags or badge numbers are covered by Police Policy or under the provisions of Police Manuals which state:

*"All Police employees have an Identification card, issues by the Commissioner of Police which they carry with them whilst both on and off duty.*

*This identity card has a photograph of the holder and in the case of a Police Constable highlights the fact they hold the powers of a Constable. Police do not have "badges" as such, but numbers of identity which are attached to police epaulettes. We also have name tags which are either pinned or fix with a magnetic onto the uniform. It is however not compulsory to wear these name tags.*

*Some Police staff are on duty but in plain clothes (CIB/photographers/youth aid staff).*

*However when off duty there is a continuing duty by Constables who have taken the Constables oath to keep the peace and prevent offences against the peace (s22 Policing Act 2008)*

*Police staff, if in uniform must produce the ID card to verify their identity, however this is not always practical, due to the circumstances of some incidents and would not be expected of Police staff in a protest situation. There is a common sense approach to this requirement.*

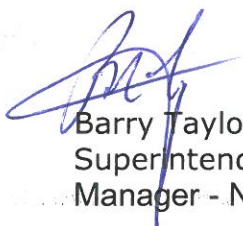
*Constables who interact directly with the public must be clearly identifiable by either name or registered number.*

*Constables wearing uniform must wear detachable epaulettes on the outer most upper body garment (wear only one set of epaulettes at a time). The epaulettes must carry the employee's appropriate rank insignia and for senior sergeants and below also include their registered numbers. The registered number is to be placed adjacent to the outer edge of the epaulette".*

Any breach of policy may result in an employment investigation under the NZ Police Code of Conduct.

If you are not satisfied with my response you have a right to complain to the Office of the Ombudsman and seek a review of my decision.

Yours faithfully



Barry Taylor  
Superintendent  
Manager - National Operations Group