

6 August 2012

Andrew Kelly
Email fyi-request-396-2ea484e2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Andrew Kelly

Re: Official Information Act Request – Wayne Thomas Patterson

Thank you for your email request dated 21 July 2012, in which you have requested a copy of the results of the 2006 probe into false passports issued to Wayne Thomas Patterson.

While the media reports at the time of Mr Patterson's arrest may have reported a number of different New Zealand passports were found, these reports appear to be inaccurate, as the Department of Internal Affairs is not aware of any false New Zealand passports being located as part of the search of Mr Patterson's property.

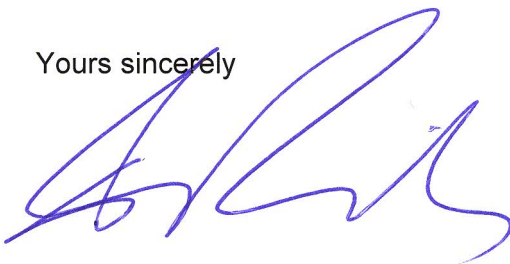
I can confirm that the Ministry of Social Development provided a list of suspicious identities to the Department of Internal Affairs in mid-October 2006. At this point, the Department immediately checked these identities against information held on its passports database.

As a result of this investigation it was determined that no New Zealand passports had been issued under the names used by Mr Patterson in his offending against the Ministry of Social Development.

When Mr Patterson was arrested, the Department received further confirmation of the identities used by Mr Patterson and was quickly able to confirm that he had not been issued with any passports in the identities he had been using to commit fraud.

The checks against our data may be what the media has referred to as a probe, however while the Department undertook checks, it did not produce a separate report on this offending.

Yours sincerely



David Philp
General Manager
Passport Office
Department of Internal Affairs

