Ref: AFS 16/9384

26 October 2016

Benedict Gordon

C/- fyi-request-4707-37d1ee82@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Gordon

Re: Request for Information

I write in reply to your Official Information request dated 6 October 2016 received by email seeking information regarding the use of IMSI (International Mobile Subscriber Identity) catchers by the New Zealand Police. You sought information on the following:

1. Does the New Zealand Police have/actively deploy IMSI (International Mobile Subscriber identity) catchers, used to intercept SIM metadata?
2. If so; under what circumstances are these tools deployed?
3. What is the metadata collected being used for?
4. Which departments within the Police operate these tools?
5. What are the costs involved with purchasing these tools?
6. If applicable please also provide any relevant documentation on the policies and regulations regarding the use of IMSI catchers by New Zealand Police

Police undertake thousands of serious crime investigations each year that utilise a range of surveillance methodologies, techniques, equipment and people. These would support cases such as homicide, robberies, on-line exploitation of children, drug dealing and matters of national security to name but a few.

It is important that police on behalf of the community protect their methods as much as possible to ensure that criminals do not use publicly released information to hinder police investigations. Providing criminals with information as to whether or not police use a particular methodology, technique or item of equipment would only harm the community and the public interest.

Therefore, pursuant to section 10 of the Official Information Act 1982 Police neither confirms or denies the existence or non existence of the information requested.

If you are not satisfied with the response to your request, you have the right to refer the matter to the Office of the Ombudsmen.

Yours sincerely

Tim R Anderson, LLB (hons)
Detective Superintendent
National Manager
National Criminal Investigations Group