



27 September 2012

Sim Ahmed  
By email: [fyi-request-486-e7f0918b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-486-e7f0918b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Sim Ahmed

### Official Information Act Request

I refer to your email of 9 August 2012, sent to Police via [www.fyi.org.nz](http://www.fyi.org.nz). In your email, you stated:

*At the Kim Dotcom hearings held over the last three days, it was revealed by members of the NZ Police service that there was a "PR and media plan" prepared before the raid on Dotcom's property.*

*I am requesting any documents relating to the handling and/or communication with media to be used following his arrest.*

I **enclose** a copy of the Communications Plan. Please note that some information has been withheld from the plan pursuant to section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982 to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any Department or organisation in the course of their duty.

Police's media releases relating to this matter are available online at [www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz).

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

Yours sincerely

Superintendent Dave Trappitt  
Acting General Manager Public Affairs

**Safer Communities Together**

**POLICE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

180 Molesworth Street, PO Box 3017, DX SX11149, Wellington 6140, New Zealand  
Telephone: (04) 474 9499 Facsimile: (04) 498 7400 [www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

## **Taskforce Debut - Communications plan**

### **Communications approach:**

This is a US led investigation and any media messages must clearly communicate this. It must also convey that the NZ Police and OFCANZ role has been to assist the US Department of Justice and FBI. The main communications approach will be to allow the US authorities to make the announcement of the termination. This will be followed by a local media release from OFCANZ and NZ Police outlining the operation which has taken place in New Zealand. Any media requests for information about the investigation itself will be directed to US Department of Justice. Detective Inspector Grant Wormald will front media for OFCANZ/NZ Police.

### **Draft communication timeline (NZT)**

0700 - Termination commences at various addresses.

0730 approx - Announcement is made by US authorities.

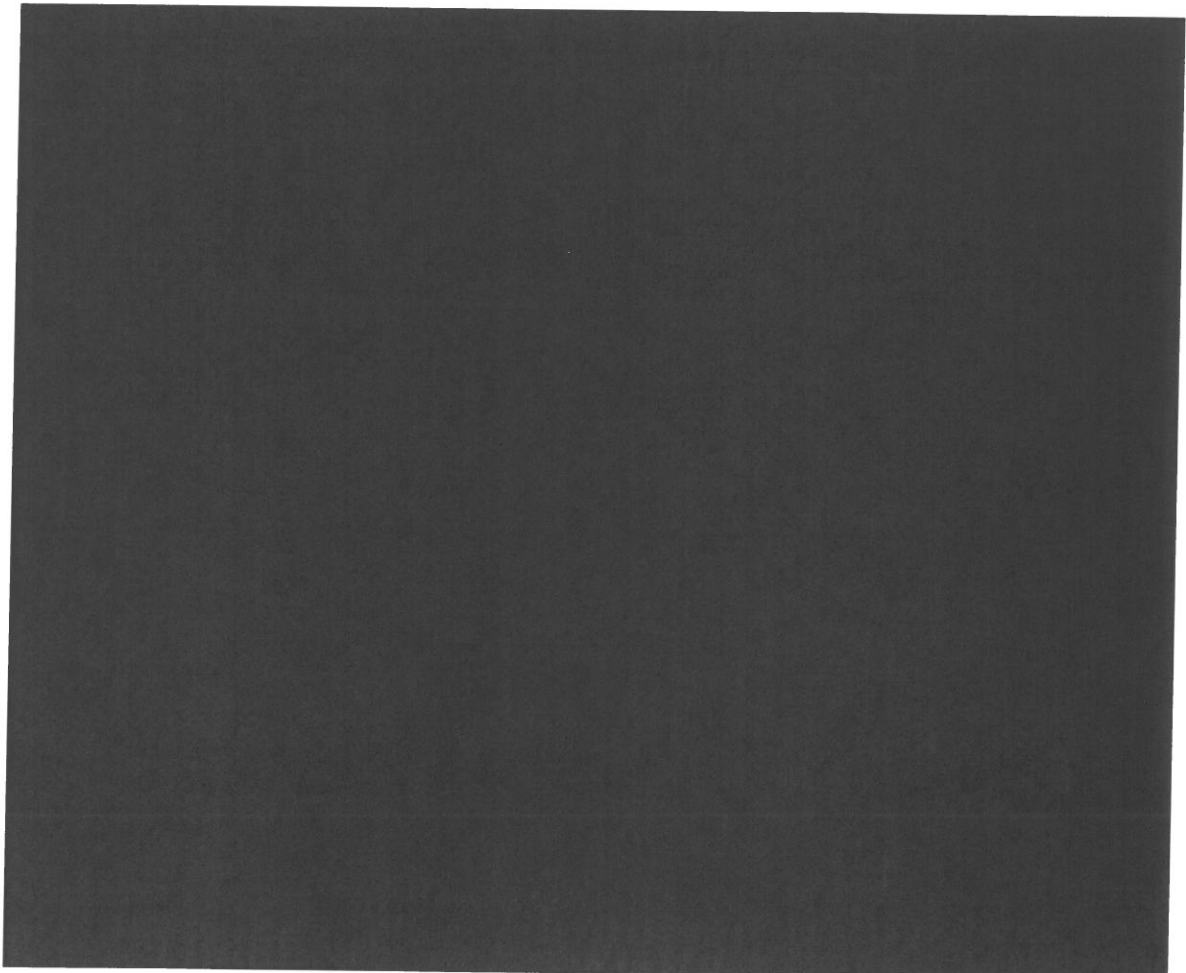
0800 - Media release by OFCANZ/NZ Police

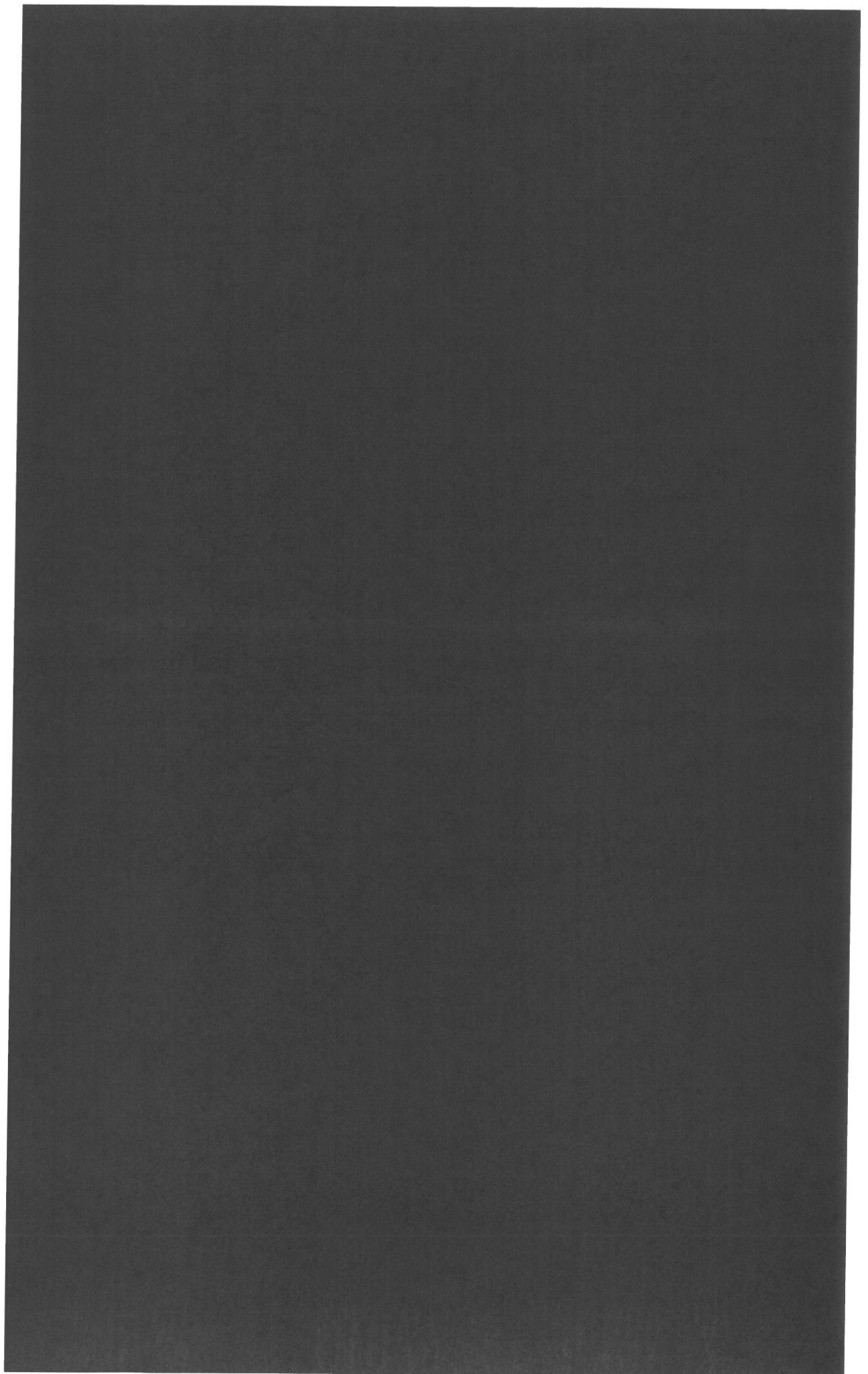
1130 - Media conference at North Shore Policing Centre by DI Grant Wormald. Limited opportunity for questions. This will be to talk to the NZ media release only.

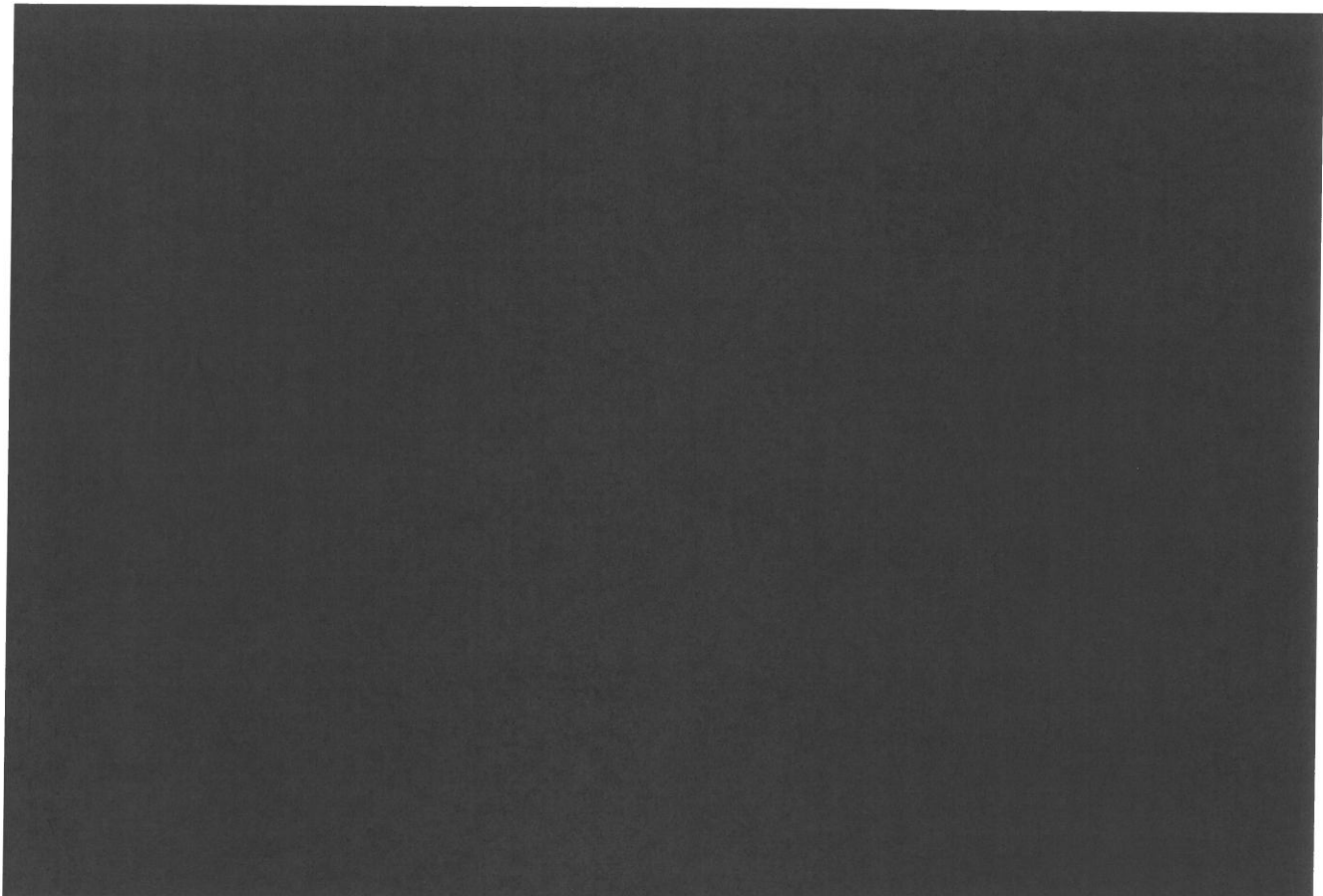
1400 - Court appearances in North Shore district court

1600 - Supply to media available pictures of any assets seized

Evening and overnight - follow up media calls likely from United States and Europe.







## | Taskforce Debut - \_key messages

- [REDACTED] have been arrested at Auckland addresses today, with search warrants executed at ten business and residential addresses.
- This is an FBI led investigation and today's activity in New Zealand arises from a formal Mutual Legal Assistance request made by the United States Department of Justice to this country.
- Assets have been seized including luxury vehicles and funds with a value up to NZ\$16m.
- Today's operation has been carried out by staff from the Organised & Financial Crime Agency New Zealand (OFCANZ) and New Zealand Police
- These individuals are all associated with a major criminal copyright infringement operation with the estimated harm to copyright holders measured in the billions (US dollars).
- As this is an FBI led investigation you will have to contact the US authorities for comment and background on the inquiry itself.
- These individuals now all face extradition to the United States where they will face the indictments laid against them.

- Those extradition proceedings will all be heard in the New Zealand courts.
- As a partner in the global law enforcement community it was important that New Zealand played its part in assisting the US authorities to bring these individuals before the courts.
- Today's operation sends another clear message that New Zealand is no soft touch for transnational crime.

## **Taskforce Debut - Q+A**

### **Can you tell us more about the extent of this investigation?**

██████ people have been arrested today and a number of search warrants executed at business and residential addresses across Auckland today. These follow formal requests for assistance by the FBI and US Department of Justice. However as this is an FBI led investigation you will have to contact the US Department of Justice for background to this case. We can only talk about what has happened here in New Zealand today and the role of OFCANZ and NZ Police staff.

### **Under what jurisdiction have these arrests been carried out?**

Warrants for today's operation have been obtained in New Zealand courts. The Mutual Legal Assistance request made by the US to New Zealand meant these warrants could be issued by a New Zealand court in relation to an overseas led investigation. This request included the execution of search warrants, seizure of assets and seizure of related evidence.

### **Have these individuals broken laws here in New Zealand?**

Possibly. However the focus of this operation has been to effect arrests so they can be extradited and stand trial in the US. This avenue is the most appropriate in bringing these accused to justice.

### **Why have they all been arrested here?**

The arrests were made today because it was known that all the targets, some of whom are NZ residents and some who live overseas, would be in the Auckland area today.

### **Why were they all in the Auckland area and how did you know?**

We are not in a position to release that information at this stage - doubtless that will form part of the case which will be put before the courts.

### **Why won't these individuals stand trial in New Zealand?**

There are valid extradition requests for these individuals to the United States. It is appropriate that they should stand trial under the jurisdiction of the country which has led the investigation into them.

**What will happen to the assets seized today?**

The assets will be secured in the custody of NZ's Official Assignee who will manage them until the various legal processes have been concluded.

**Are the FBI operating here in New Zealand and under what jurisdiction?**

A small number of FBI personnel have been in New Zealand in a liaison capacity. However the investigations in New Zealand which led to today's arrests and the arrests themselves have all been carried out by New Zealand Police and OFCANZ staff.

**Is this case linked to the recently passed copyright laws in New Zealand?**

No

**It's just copyright infringement - isn't this a heavy handed response for what is essentially a victimless crime?**

These are serious charges - billion's US dollars of copyright infringements here. It has a direct in impact on industries such as the film and music business and their ability to trade and provide employment - including here in New Zealand.