

16 March 2017

Emmy Rāketē

[fyi-request-5039-e1a33fc2@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-5039-e1a33fc2@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Rāketē,

### **Official Information Act 1982 request**

I refer to your email to Police dated 30 November 2016 where you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 for the following information:

*“Provide the biannual tactical options research report for 1 January - 30 June 2015 (Biannual tactical options research report #8.)*

*Provide the biannual tactical options research report for 1 July - 31 December 2015 (Biannual tactical options research report #9.)*

*Provide the annual tactical options research report for 1 January - 31 December 2015 (Annual tactical options research report #4.)*

*Provide all internal communications or documents regarding why these reports were not made available to the public.*

*Provide the biannual tactical options research report for 1 January - 30 June 2016 (Biannual tactical options research report #10.)*

*Provide all raw data being used in the creation of the biannual tactical options research report for 1 July - 31 December 2016.”*

On 20 December 2016 Police informed you that your request had been refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the information you requested did not exist.

On 12 January 2017, Police was informed by the Ombudsman that you had made a complaint under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the following parts of your request had not been responded to:

- 1. Provide all internal communications or documents regarding why these reports were not made available to the public.*
- 2. Provide all raw data being used in the creation of the biannual tactical options research report for 1 July - 31 December 2016.*

Police regret that our initial response did not clearly state that these parts of your request were also refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982. I have further considered your request and deal with these two requests in turn:

#### **1. Internal communications or documents regarding why reports were not made available to the public**

With regards to the first point, as stated in the initial response by Police, the Tactical Options Research reports you requested do not exist because they were not generated due to a technical fault with the TOR database. As such, there were no discussions, communications, or documents made within Police as to whether or not to make these reports available to the public.

In terms of internal communications or documents regarding the technical difficulties with the TOR database which meant that the reports could not be released to the public, there would be a significant amount of difficulty involved in locating any information held regarding this issue and consequently this request is partly refused under section 18(f) as it would require substantial collation or research.

However, I have provided a copy of the Process document which was produced by Police ICT in September 2016, which outlines the technical issues which affected the TOR database (and thus delayed the production of the reports), as well as the steps which would be taken to remedy the issues. This document is redacted pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

## **2. Raw data being used in the creation of July – December 2016 TOR report**

Regarding the second part of your request, the raw data you requested did not exist for the relevant dates for the following reasons:

- No biannual (or annual) report was, or is currently, being created. As such, no raw data exists that was, or is, being used to create this report.
- The dataset that could *potentially* be used to create the biannual report also did not exist, for the following reasons:
  - The dataset was incomplete because at the time of your request (20 November 2016) the submission period for Tactical Options Reports (TORs) that would be covered in a potential Biannual report (1 July – 31 December 2016) had not ended.
  - Insufficient time had passed to allow for the two-stage review process of submitted TOR forms to be completed. Only TOR forms that have completed this review process are used in the TOR annual and biannual reports to ensure data integrity.
  - Because of the above, as well as the carry-on effects of the technical issues mentioned in the previous response, a higher than normal number of TORs have not completed the two-stage review process. Currently 11% of TORs submitted for this period are incomplete, compared with 0.2% of TORs submitted between 1 July and 31 December 2014 (period covered in the most recent biannual report).
  - The layout and content which will be covered in the next reports, and therefore what data is required from other sources, has not been finalised.
  - The data has not been cleaned or coded for analysis, or to correct common issues, including data entry errors.

Thus, any data that exists is incomplete and unreliable and, in any event, not being used to generate a TOR report.

However, as the time period for submitting the TORs has now finished, I have reconsidered your request for the raw data and now attach a spreadsheet showing a data export of completed TORs for 1 July - 31 December 2016. However, please be aware of the following context in terms of the information you have requested. While the data could potentially be used to create a biannual report, for the reasons described above, this data is incomplete and has not been cleaned or coded for analysis or to correct any errors. Some columns have been removed or altered (as outlined in the Notes tab of the spreadsheet), pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982, to protect the privacy of natural persons. Given the incomplete and unreliable nature of this data, Police takes no responsibility for its accuracy and correctness, and advises that it is incomplete. Police requests that if you publish this data in any form, you attach a proviso noting that Police have communicated to you that this information is raw data which has not been checked and which is therefore incomplete and unreliable. Furthermore, Police will not be liable for any loss or damage

arising directly or indirectly from reliance on the data or information presented in the spreadsheet.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scahill', written in a cursive style.

Superintendent Chris Scahill  
**National Manager: Response and Operations**