



29 May 2017

Luke Chandler

Email: [fyi-request-5852-c054c432@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-5852-c054c432@requests.fyi.org.nz)

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Dear Luke Chandler,

Request for Information.

I refer to your letter received by Police from the Office of the Prime Minister received by Police on 22 May 2017 in which you requested

- Why Bealey Ave was closed for the Prime Minister?
- Who paid for this road closure?

I have considered your request in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 and the Privacy Act 1993 and respond to your queries below:

**1. "Why Bealey Avenue was closed for the Prime Minister"**

The Prime Minister of New Zealand holds the status of an "Internationally Protected Person" and as such receives security measures consummate to his position.

As part of the security for his visit to Christchurch 5 May 2017, following an official engagement the Prime Ministerial vehicle received unimpeded egress onto the outer most lane of Bealey Avenue, westward.

Police staff were tasked with closing this outer lane as a safety consideration. Unfortunately the Police members tasked closed both westbound lanes. This resulted in all westbound traffic on Bealey Avenue being stopped for approximately four minutes.

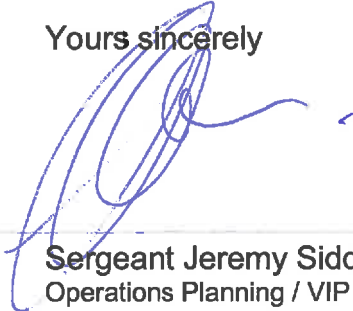
Limiting traffic flow to all three lanes was not the original intention and as soon as the Prime Minister left normal traffic flow was restored. Police have authority to close roads under Land Transport act 1998

2. *"Whom paid for this road closure"*

There is no specific budget allocated to the Prime Minister. All costs are met through the Canterbury Police Operational budget.

If you would like to seek further clarification regarding my response please email [canterbury.informationrequests@police.govt.nz](mailto:canterbury.informationrequests@police.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



**Sergeant Jeremy Siddell**

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