



29 January 2018

Dr Robert Shaw
fyi-request-6724-e646ffb3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Dr Shaw

On 19 October 2017 you made an information request to Police concerning Database Information Availability. You supplied Police with a media article, which I understand was taken from the New Zealand Herald and you posed four questions. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

You asked:

a) How is it that Police information about informants appears on a vehicle testing station database?

The use of the word 'police informant' within the context of the article you supplied actually refers to a Crown witness who gave evidence at a trial in the Auckland High Court.

This witness made observations in the early hours of February 15, 2016 on Alford Street, Waterview that they deemed to be suspicious due to recent break-ins of cars at that time. This person then contacted police (via 111) to alert police as to what they saw. In this context, the witness was referred to as an 'informant' by Justice Palmer. This witness was not an informant in the sense used by Police when referring to informants. They were, rather, one of many witnesses who gave evidence for the Crown during the trial. Their name was supplied to defence counsel as is required by the Criminal Disclosure Act.

Police does not provide information to VTNZ about informants or witnesses in criminal cases. Police is bound by the Privacy Act 1993 and by other relevant legislation with regards to disclosure of personal information.

b) Do all the testing stations for vehicles have this information?

Police does not hold this information.

c) Is there some link between the quality of vehicles and the character of their owners?

This is not information held by Police.

d) Apart from vehicle testing people, who else has access to the kind of information referenced in the article below [refer to attachment]?

Police is not privy to the information that was reportedly obtained from a VTNZ database or how VTNZ collected that information. Police is therefore not in a position to consider what other agencies or people might have access to similar information to that held by VTNZ.

You have the right to complain to the Ombudsman about my response to your request.

Yours sincerely



Detective Inspector Gary Lendrum
Counties Manukau