



11 July 2018

Thomas Holmes  
[fyi-request-7961-a46a024b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-7961-a46a024b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Thomas

#### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I refer to your letter dated 30 May 2018 in which you requested information for the following:

1. *The name of the further tests used to diagnose colour perception if the applicant fails the Ishihara Test; and*
2. *For each further test used, please provide the standards that need to be met in order for the test to consider as successfully passed and the applicant having met the standard; and*
3. *Please provide any policies relating to colour blindness standards in the Police*

I have considered your request in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982.

Please see below for information on the above mentioned points

New Zealand Police Officers need to be able to see accurately and distinguish colours in a variety of situations primarily for safety, but also with driving, gathering/presenting evidence and the like. Recruit applicants who have a history of colour blindness are considered and in many instances, accepted but it depends on the type and severity of the colour deficit.

There are varying degrees of colour blindness and colour vision is assessed at the very early stages of the recruitment process. As per our visual standard, if the baseline colour test - Ishihara is a fail, this doesn't mean an absolute decline, rather more assessment is required to see if applicants meet our standard using different types of colour vision checks. This is done by a diagnostic colour perception test such as the 100 Hue, D15 or a Farnsworth Lantern, and/or confirmed with either the Medmont C100 or Oscar Colour Vision Tester. These are all the technical names for the different ways to confirm colour blindness, what colours are likely to be confused and the severity of the defect. If any of these tests are a pass then the applicant will meet our standard.

#### Police National Headquarters

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

A baseline New Zealand Police visual examination is requested very early on in the recruitment process at the initial medical review/clearance.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop that crosses itself, followed by a horizontal stroke and a small upward tick at the end.

Inspector Mel Aitken  
Acting National Manager, Wellness and Safety