

18/OIR/267

Dear Liam

Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) Request

I refer to your email dated 11 June 2018 requesting the following specific information in relation to competency assessments, which you also refer to as audits and tests, done on Avsec officers at Wellington Airport (specifically International Departures):

1. What is assessed in these audits (if possible can you provide me a sample audit)?
2. Is there a mark or expected level of detection in order for an officer to be marked as competent/ pass?
3. How many instances have officers "failed" these audits within the last 12 months?
4. What happens to a screening officer who has failed?

Below is our response in relation to each of your questions.

1 What is assessed in these audits (if possible can you provide me a sample audit)?

Clause A24 of Appendix A of Part 140 of the Civil Aviation Rules requires Avsec as a Part 140 certificate holder to ensure that all aviation security officers are subject to recurrent testing without prior notice using an approved standard test piece or pieces. Recurrent testing of each officer happens within a 150 day cycle.

Aviation security officers are being tested on screening of the person, screening by x-ray, hand search of carry-on baggage, sterile area search, aircraft search, vehicle search, cargo screening, and hold baggage screening. Recurrent testing of hold baggage screening is not a rule requirement.

2. Is there a mark or expected level of detection in order for an officer to be marked as competent/ pass?

There is no degree of pass or fail, the measure of proficiency is a test piece which is either detected or not by the Avsec officer. The requirement for this approach can be found in clause A24(e) of Appendix A of Part 140 of the Civil Aviation Rules.

Hold baggage screening is assessed using a different type of test. Information on the details of those tests is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the Act as disclosing the information requested would be likely to prejudice the security of New Zealand.

3. How many instances have officers "failed" these audits within the last 12 months?

Detail is refused on this part of your request in accordance with section 6(a) of the Act as disclosing the information requested would be likely to prejudice the security of New Zealand.

4. What happens to a screening officer who has failed?

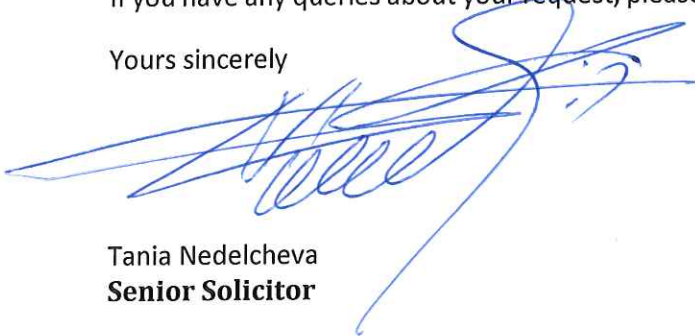
Clause A24(e)(2) and (3) of Appendix A of Civil Aviation Rule Part 140 provides the answer to this question. The officer is stood down from duty, re-tested, and if required re-trained in accordance with Avsec procedures.

You have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of our decision. The Ombudsman's contact details are:

Address: The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsmen
PO Box 10152
Wellington 6143
Phone/Fax: 0800 802 602 / (04) 471 2254
Email: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz
Website: <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/make-a-complaint>

If you have any queries about your request, please contact me at oia@caa.govt.nz or on (04) 560 9472.

Yours sincerely



Tania Nedelcheva
Senior Solicitor