



22 August 2018

D Weir

Via email: fyi-request-8393-583f2b5e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear D Weir,

Request for information

Thank you for your email dated 27 July 2018 requesting information in relation to a birthday party that Police attended. You requested:

1. A breakdown of all costs incurred by the NZ Police Department for "event" including the operational costs of the Staffing, Police Helicopter, Police Vehicle, Film Production Team and "Birthday Gift".
2. Confirmation that all staff involved were off-duty at the time of the incident as per the claim in the video.
3. Policies around off-duty police officers wearing their uniform for non-work events and the carrying of Pepper Spray.
4. What approval process was made for this event?
5. Copies of all internal communications relating to the organisation, authorisation etc. of this event.

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982. The response to your questions is recorded below:

- 2) Police confirm that of the six staff that appeared in the video, three officers were on duty and three were off duty. The officers that were on-duty were following operational procedures and were able to attend any live jobs if required. These staff were also on their lunchbreak at the time of filming. Eagle staff (Police helicopter) working on the day were asked if it was possible for them to fly over the birthday party. As they were already in the area and in between attending incidents it was operationally possible for Eagle to do this. They did not specifically go in the air or fly to this area for this purpose.
- 3) As per Police Instructions, employees not on duty may wear uniform at events approved on a case by case basis by their District Commander or National Manager. As officers were wearing operational uniform, it is a requirement that O/C Spray (Pepper spray) is carried.
- 4) The approval process was conducted via Senior Sergeant Joe Hunter and the New Zealand Police Media Team.

We are unable to provide some of the information you have requested for the following reasons:

- 1) It is not uncommon for Police to seek to enhance public relations. Costs are not specifically kept in relation to events of this type. There is no specific document containing such information. In order to provide that information substantial collation and research is

necessary. Therefore, the information is withheld pursuant to section 18(e) and (f) of the Official Information Act

- 5) Email correspondence between Senior Sergeant Joe Hunter and Garry Boles (Police Media Team) has been attached. Some information has been withheld pursuant to Section 6(c) and 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act.

If you have any questions, you may contact the Counties Manukau Police via email on counties.manukau.records@police.govt.nz, alternatively you can reply directly to me on Ashleigh.lowe@police.govt.nz

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with Police's response to your request.

Yours sincerely

Ashleigh Lowe
File Management Centre Manager