Hon Andrew Little

Minister of Justice

Minister for Courts

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Minister Responsible for the NZSIS

Minister Responsible for the GCSB

Minister Responsible for Pike River Re-entry

2 9 NOV 2018

Derek Haddon
fyi-request-8967-88d9f0ed@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Haddon

Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your query received on 31 October 2018. You requested:

> *"I have evidence of a Government department using OCR software to modify Government documents.*
> *I have two questions :*
> *1. Is this acceptable from a Government agency?*
> *2. How is your Government equiped to reslove such issues."*

Government departments use Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software for a range of purposes. For example, this includes the preparation of responses to Official Information Act requests, as OCR software allows the preparation of documentation for release with appropriate redactions.

In relation to your second question, where any member of the public believes there is evidence of criminal offending – be that fraud, or other crimes – there is the opportunity to report the suspected offending to the relevant law enforcement agency or agencies; in this case, most likely New Zealand Police or the Serious Fraud Office. You can find out more about technology-enabled crime, and how to go about reporting it to the appropriate authorities, on the following New Zealand Police webpage (www.police.govt.nz/advice/email-and-internet-safety/electronic-crime).

Thank you for sharing your concerns with us.

Yours sincerely

Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Justice