



3 December 2018

Joel A Walsham
By email: fyi-request-9100-2dfb87b5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Walsham

Request for information – Our reference: IR-01-18-16870

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 22 November 2018, in which you asked to be provided with *“information describing the internal process which guided the New Zealand Police's decision to withdraw its application to participate in the 2019 Auckland Pride Parade”*. You added that, *“if any meetings were held to make this decision ... state the number of people present at these decision making meetings.”*

With regard to the first part of your request, the decision was made by the Police Pride Parade Organising Committee and advisors. The Commissioner of Police was also consulted and supported the decision. Staff who were part of the first Pride Parade where New Zealand Police officers marched in uniform, including a member who was out of the country on an overseas deployment, were consulted.

Regarding the second part of your request, there were a number of discussions, prior to the decision, involving the Police Pride Parade Organising Committee - including some of our more active Tāmaki Makaurau Diversity Liaison Officers.

The Pride Board relayed to us that feedback had been received from rainbow communities that indicated some marginalised groups did not feel safe when police marched in uniform. Four members of the Police Pride Parade Organising Committee were at the meeting with the Pride Board when the decision was made to step back from the 2019 event. The Organising Committee had discussed that this may be a possible outcome, prior to the meeting, and were united in the decision.

It is appropriate to add this decision was not taken lightly, and we acknowledge the impact it has on our staff who fought so hard to get us marching in uniform in the first place. That said, it was a joint decision, including foundation members of the Police Pride Parade Organising Committee. Advice was also sought from trusted advisors within the rainbow communities prior to making the decision. The Police Pride Parade Organising Committee and advisors were unanimous in the decision reached.

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In closing, I trust the information provided satisfactorily addresses the areas of interest which you signalled. However, if you are not satisfied with my response, then as you may already be aware, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Jackson', written in a cursive style.

Superintendent Anna Jackson
National Manager
Police Professional Conduct