

Mark Hanna

By email: fyi-request-9725-a6c4242c@requests.fyi.org.nz

27 May 2021

Dear Mr Hanna,

Request for information – IR-01-19-6782

On 28 February 2019, you made a request for information to Police:

I would like to know what led to Police making the decision without any apparent plan to end this general arming of Christchurch frontline officers.

Please release the following information:

- 1. All documents, including meeting minutes and internal communications, regarding the decision to have Christchurch officers carry firearms on their person specifically // until further notice// (or other wording to similar effect).*
- 2. All documents, including meeting minutes and internal communications, regarding plans to discontinue the general arming of Christchurch frontline officers.*
- 3. Any risk assessment conducted regarding the temporary general arming of Christchurch frontline officers.*
- 4. Any documents, such as guidelines or process documents, regarding how an order to arm frontline officers may be given.*
- 5. Any documents, such as guidelines or process documents, regarding how an order to arm frontline officers is reviewed.*

Between 28 June 2019 and 12 July 2019, Police responded to your request, releasing information to you. Some information was withheld pursuant to sections 6(c), 9(2)(a), and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982.

You subsequently asked the Office of the Ombudsman (the Office) to review Police's response to your request. Police received communications from the Office between 14 October 2019 and 20 May 2021.

In view of the receipt of the latter communications, Police has reviewed its response to your request. This review has uncovered further information that falls within the purview of your request. Along with the recently discovered further information, Police has decided to release some information that was previously withheld.

I enclose the following information:

- A summary of the approval of routine carriage of firearms in Canterbury for the period 27 February to 3 March 2019, which includes the precipitating incidents, an explanation of the decision-making process District Commander Superintendent John Price undertook, and Superintendents John Price and Corrie Parnell and Inspector Ashley Tabb's recollections of briefings held 27 February to 1 March 2019;

- Notebook entries of Inspector Ashley Tabb taken during the aforementioned briefings;
- All emails in relation to routine carriage of firearms in Canterbury for the period 27 February to 3 March 2019;
- New Zealand Police Our Business 2018-19;
- New Zealand Police firearms policy;
- New Zealand Police TENR policy;
- New Zealand Police Tactical Options Framework.

We have withheld some of the information you have requested for the following reasons:

- Section 6(c) of the Official Information Act 1982: release of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.
- Section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982: there is a need to protect the privacy of persons, including that of deceased persons. Police considers the interests requiring protection by withholding the information are not outweighed by any public interest in release of the information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with Police's response to your request. You can find more information here:

<http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/make-a-complaint/complaining-about-access-to-official-information-551307291224432>.

The Office will be sent a copy of this letter and the enclosed documents.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Milne

Rachel Milne

Te Wai Pounamu Information Request Team

Canterbury Supervisor

Service Delivery

New Zealand Police

Te Wai Pounamu Information Request Team
Service Delivery

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