



NEW ZEALAND
POLICE
Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa

11 JUN 2019

Mr Hugh Davenport

fyi-request-10218-8d28f661@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: IR-01-19-12009

Dear Hugh

Thank you for your email request for information relating to information regarding racist complaints about Police staff which was received by Police on the 29 April 2019 for the following:

"I would like to request the following regarding complaints made against Police staff.

For the year 2018, I would like to request:

- 1) The number of Police staff which had a complaint laid against them for racist views (such as failing to investigate a crime due to the victim being of a certain race, use of racial slurs in communication with public or other Police staff, known member of groups associated with racist views).*
- 2) For each of these complaints, I would like:*
 - a) the rank of the officer (or position if civilian staff)*
 - b) the gender of the officer*
 - c) the age of the officer*
 - d) the time served in the Police*
 - e) whether the complaint was made by a member of the public, or internally within the Police*
 - f) a brief description of the complaint*
 - g) what the outcome was (termination of contract/suspension/etc).*

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) and provide the following as per the above numbers and queries:

- 1) there were 6 Police staff which had complaints laid against them with a reference to racial overtones.
- 2) (a) there were 5 Constabulary members and 1 employee front counter staff member
 - (b) there were 5 males and 1 female
 - (c) age ranges from 29 to 65
 - (d) service of staff ranged from 2 years to 26 years
 - (e) 5 complaints were external and 1 was internal

(f) a short summary of each allegation is provided:

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. www.police.govt.nz

- A person had been trespassed from an address and whilst Police were speaking to them alleged the police officer had sworn at them and racially profiled them. This was resolved by way of facilitated resolution
- At a vehicle crash one of the drivers alleged the police officer used inappropriate language which included racist overtones. This was not upheld
- A person went to a police station to make a complaint and whilst there alleged that the employee spoke to them in a rude and racist way. This was resolved by way of facilitated resolution
- During a conversation with colleagues a staff member made comments with racist undertones. This was upheld
- The complainant was at their home address and was approached by Police who the complainant alleged spoke to them in an abusive, ill-mannered and racist way. This was resolved by way of facilitated resolution.

(g) In regard to the 'outcome (termination of contract/suspension/etc) this is refused under section 9 (2) (a) Official Information Act 1982, to protect the privacy of individuals. Given that a summary has been provided above with the details of the outcome of the allegation, Police considers that the withholding of the additional information is not outweighed by other considerations which may render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

For your reference 'facilitated resolution' is an agreement between Police and the IPCA on an outcome that resolves the complaint in a manner that is proportionate to the nature and seriousness of the matter complained of. It may be in the form of an apology or an explanation to the complainant.

You made a further request for information on 30 April 2019 in which you requested:

'Can I further request that this information be split into Police districts, and further into months (please note any that are valid for several months).'

- The months recorded as receiving the complaints are:
January, July, 2 x August, October and December 2018.
- The districts that the complaints were received in were:
Auckland City District, Wellington x 2, Waitemata x 2, Bay of Plenty

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask the Ombudsman to review this response, if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



Superintendent Anna Jackson
National Manager Police Professional Conduct