

30 September 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-24154

Pryce Payne  
[fyi-request-11133-41c3ce8e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-11133-41c3ce8e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Payne

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 3 September 2019. Your request has been considered pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, specifically you requested:

*“Information as to if there was a response to the Christchurch terror attacks by the NZDF by 1NZSAS. There has been images circulating online of men not in police uniform with rifles”.*

I can confirm that Police Officers from Australia and Hong Kong, and NZDF personnel were attending a New Zealand Police led firearms training course and all assisted Christchurch Police for a short time on March 15. These individuals have advanced specialist medical first aid training and were deployed to the two scenes to provide immediate medical assistance.

Personnel from the course did not deploy in Police uniform but were under the direct supervision of New Zealand Police. There are a number of photographs circulating of course personnel in civilian clothing, some carrying firearms as it was still believed an armed offender was at large at that time.

Yours sincerely



**Acting Superintendent Andrew Sissons**  
National Manager: Response and Operations

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**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](http://www.police.govt.nz)