

21 January 2020

Amy Ferguson
fyi-request-11511-8739f5cb@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Amy

Re: Official Information Act Request re Police Informants

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 22 October 2019 received via email, in which you sought information on the following:

- 1. Please provide me with the specifications & particulars of CCTV hardware/software purchased by the NZ Police, whether practically used or unused within the years of 2017-2019 in any/all surveillance operations in NZ.*
- 2. Particularly please provide me with the specifications of the type of CCTV hardware/software used in Operation Maddale (Auckland) & Operation Superdry (Wellington) 2019. Including the cost of such material, programmes used in conjunction with said CCTV material and most importantly the manufacturer of the product/s & or service/s.*

Police undertake a large number of serious and organised crime investigations each year that utilise a range of surveillance methodologies, techniques, equipment and people. These would support cases such as homicide, robberies, on-line exploitation of children, drug dealing and matters of national security to name but a few.

It is important that police on behalf of the community protect their methods as much as possible to ensure that criminals do not use publicly released information to hinder police investigations. Should this information fall into criminal hands as to whether or not police use a particular methodology, technique or item of equipment would only harm the community and the public interest.

Police are not willing to make public any information about its CCTV equipment because disclosing that information would potentially help criminals know more about the operating methods of police, the scope of our capabilities (or not) and this would not be in the public interest.

Therefore your request is refused pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Official Information Act as the making available of this information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences and the right to a fair trial.

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

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Mackie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Mackie
Detective Inspector
National Criminal Investigations Group
Police National Headquarters