

05 December 2019

REF NUMBER: IR-01-19-29998

Mr Nick Bolton  
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Dear Mr Bolton

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 4 November 2019 for information relating to Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology.

You requested:

1. *How many Police vehicles use ANPR technology to read vehicle number plates?*

Police has a total of 18 vehicles that use ANPR technology, comprising of 16 cars and 2 vans.

2. *By what mechanism are new and updated records sent to the ANPR device – eg. Live lookups or USB stick?*

Police uses an Iron Key (encrypted USB stick) to send new and updated records to ANPR technology.

3. *If known, what percentage accuracy do your ANPR devices have at detecting plates?*

The exact percentage of accuracy for detecting vehicle licence plates by ANPR vehicle mounted devices is not known. However, the 3M vehicle mounted unit is quoted as reading 3,000 vehicle licence plates per hour. Two images and an interpreted vehicle licence plate reading are displayed. One image provides an overview of the vehicle and the other image provides a highly detailed infrared close up view of the vehicle licence plate. Police are then able to check the interpreted vehicle licence plate value with the images to mitigate any inaccuracy.

It is worth noting that the interpreted vehicle licence plate reading is highly accurate subject to it not being damaged or obscured. The reading may also be less accurate if the plate is personalised and/or not in the standard format. For example a 0 may be read inaccurately as an O, and vice versa.

4. *How many stationary ANPR devices are in use in New Zealand?*

To the best of our knowledge, Police are aware of one Police owned fixed ANPR camera. Some Districts utilise a third party, namely Nautech Electronics, to run stolen vehicle data through five of Nautech's fixed ANPR cameras. It is worth noting that only the publicly available stolen vehicle data, which is available through the Police website, is provided to third parties.

### **Police National Headquarters**

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Throughout New Zealand there are a number of different entities such as petrol stations, airports and shopping complexes that use fixed ANPR cameras. One major third party who provides access to a range of fixed ANPR cameras around the country is Auror and more information can be found on their website at <https://www.auror.co/>.

5. *What is the cost to equip a car with an ANPR device?*

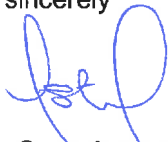
The units cost approximately \$35,000-\$45,000 each excluding GST, including installation into the vehicles.

6. *If not commercially sensitive, who is the vendor of the current ANPR technology used by Police?*

Police sources ANPR technology from Nautech Electronics Limited.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



**Acting Superintendent Amelia Steel**  
National Manager Road Policing