



NEW ZEALAND
POLICE
Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa

21 February 2020

James Scott

REF: IR-01-19-32477

Dear James,

I refer to your request of 28 November 2019 for the following information regarding a video posted on Facebook:

“This clips in the video appears to be completely scripted by Police. In particular, the very first clip on the video shows a Police vehicle sitting behind the only vehicle on the motorway for some time instead of simply going around it. This is at odds with the advertising strategy which seems to have been to point out that every second responding to an emergency is critical. Can I please have all documentation related to the commissioning, development, production and upload of the video under the OIA”

In the first piece of footage on the motorway, having the emergency services vehicle change into the left lane was not necessary as the vehicle pulled over not long after the horn while in the second piece of footage, the left hand lane had heavy traffic in it so changing lane wasn't an option. In the next two pieces of footage (where it took 26 and 20 seconds) there was traffic up head in the left hand lane so going around would not have been effective. While part of the video does say every second counts, lane changes should only be made when it is safe and where there is room to do so effectively.

In terms of documentation regarding the commissioning, development, and production of the video – the idea for the video came from a verbal discussion with road policing staff where part of the discussion was about this driving behaviour from motorists. As a result of that discussion, the filming was organised and involved a question and answer style interview of what they were seeing. There was no scripting of any form for the video.

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

Jane Archibald
Deputy Chief Executive Media & Communications
Police National Headquarters

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