10 June 2020

James Scott

REF: IR-01-20-11409

Dear James,

I refer to your request of 17 April 2020 for the following information:

“Any communications and/or consultation between South Pacific Pictures (or any representative thereof) and New Zealand Police about the content of the following shows: Outrageous Fortune, and Westside.

Both shows ran (or run) storylines that portray elements of corruption, misuse of power, brutality and harassment within your organisation. Anecdotally speaking these storylines are a true reflection of behaviour of some individuals within New Zealand Police and I am interested to what level Police were consulted and/or objected to and/or influenced these storylines on these shows”.

My response is as follows:

When it comes to **fictiona**l dramas, documentaries, TV shows etc., it is not required for production companies to get sign-off or approval of the scripts and storylines from New Zealand Police.

**Outrageous Fortune**

Because the series ran from 2005-2010 there would be significant resource required to look for any communications and/or consultation so for this reason this part of the request has been declined under 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to the volume of required collation relating to this request.

We did however made an initial search, and no communications were found.

**Westside**

For Westside (which ran from 2015-2019), the communication between New Zealand Police and South Pacific Pictures is included with this request. As noted in the email, there was no need for New Zealand Police involvement as the series is fictional.

For police uniforms that are used in **fictiona**l dramas, documentaries, TV shows etc., generic Police branded items (e.g. items that do not involve the New Zealand Police Crest or Coat of Arms) are hired through external uniform hire companies.

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