

27 May 2020

Our Reference: IR-01-20-12237

Andrew Rennison
fyi-request-12761-7d6a1893@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Andrew,

I am writing in response to the email you submitted 2 May 2020. Your request has been considered pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982. Specifically you requested:

I am inquiring in regards to Body Armour System (BAS) which is currently being introduced to Armed Offender Squads (AOS), Armed Response Teams (ART), and eventually to all Police Officers nationwide.

With the 6-month ART trial coming to its end on 26 April 2020, and the evaluation of the results expected in June 2020, it seems reasonable to request the following information about the soon to be standard issue BAS for consideration by the public:

- 1) What are the capabilities, specifications and tolerance limits of the BAS soft panel inserts.*
- 2) What are the capabilities, specifications and tolerance limits of the BAS hard panel inserts.*
- 3) Are the BAS hard panel inserts limited to AOS/ART personnel, or related situations.*
- 4) What situations are being considered when use of the BAS hard panel inserts are utilised by non AOS/ART Officers.*

Please provide this information in .pdf format, with information in accordance with the VPAM and NIJ ballistic armour scales.

Since June 2019, NZ Police has undertaken a national wide process to roll out a new personalised Body Armour System (BAS) which is a refinement of the Stab Resistant Body Armour (SRBA) that was issued to all constabulary members of NZ Police.

With respect to questions 1 and 2, any information regarding the capabilities, specifications and tolerance limits of Body Armour Systems (BAS) is withheld under section 9(2) (b) (ii) where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is subject of the information, and the safety of frontline staff using BAS.

Police National Headquarters

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I have considered your remaining two questions and can confirm that all constabulary members issued with BAS are required to wear a minimum of soft armour panels when deployed, and HAP must be available at all times whilst on duty. Wearing HAP is mandatory when attending an incident where firearms are, or could be present or when under instructions to do so.

I trust you are satisfied with my response to your request. If not, you have a right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982 to ask the Office of the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of my decision.

Yours sincerely



Superintendent Andrew Sissons
National Manager: Response & Operations

