

2 December 2013

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RSOC13163

Dear Mason

Response to your Official Information Act request dated 23 November 2013

Thank you for your Official Information Act request dated 23 November 2013 which was received in this office on 25 November 2013. Thank you for your questions about the Digital Child Exploitation Filtering System (DCEFS) operated by the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department).

The system is designed to prevent a web browser from accessing designated websites that carry child exploitation material. While the definition of objectionable in the legislation describes a number of different topics deemed to be objectionable, the DCEFS only filters those sites hosting child abuse or exploitation material.

As the DCEFS is simply a filtering system, it is not used as a source of information to undertake a criminal investigation or prosecution. I can therefore confirm that no record is kept of a user's IP address at the time of a block being completed. I can also confirm that no investigations have, nor will be generated out of the DCEFS.

In your message you state that a comment was presented to the effect that your IP address had been recorded. The filter page that is displayed at the time of a block by the DCEFS does not report that the IP address has been recorded. The Department is aware of a number of internet scams that infer the block has been completed by an official system, where the action has no origin from any official filtering process.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Craig Press
Team Leader Official Correspondence
Regulatory Services

