

18 March 2021

Amy S Van Wey Lovatt

By email to: [fyi-request-14898-cbcb4dbe@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14898-cbcb4dbe@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Amy

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: OUR REFERENCE OIA 01-21-8208**

Thank you for your email of 10 March 2021 requesting the following information;

1. **Documents of information as to the meaning and usage of NZ Police Offence Code “Z2 Other Service Request/Response”**
2. **Documents as to the meaning of “cleared, offender” in the NZ Police case summary files and;**
3. **Whom do individuals contact to have their Police records cleared when they have been linked to an offence**

With reference to question 1: Code 2Z – Other Service Request/Response is a ‘Task’ code – not an ‘Offence’ code. Task codes are used to describe (and understand) demand that our staff are “tasked” to respond to. For example, reports from the public about the issue of Trespass Notices or requests from other agencies for Police to take some specific action on their behalf.

Police doesn't have a document that defines Police service response codes; whether “Offence”, “Incident” or “Task” codes. On that basis, and in accordance with the Act specifically section 18(e), we can't provide a document. However, I can confirm that Emergency Management Communication Centres label the code 2Z as “Other Service Request/Response” which is described as a “Task code”

To address the second part of your request, as you are aware, the National Recording Standards (NRS) document is publicly available accessible here: <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/national-recording-standard-august-2019>. This document includes information on the meaning of “Clearance Types” and/or the “Clearance Type” link.

The NRS explains that “Cleared Offender” this is a term which describes the use of a “Clearance Type” link in the National Intelligence Application (NIA). The purpose of the link is to make a connection in Police systems between a recorded offence.

The use of the term “Cleared Offender” and/or “Clearance Type” link do not require an offender to have been arrested or charged in relation to the linked offence. Most persons identified as an offender (as being responsible for an offence) are dealt with by use of warnings or other supported resolution options.

With reference to question two you made additional comments which stated your concern with regards to the application of the “Clearance Types” and/or

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*“Clearance Type” link resulting in “NZ Police linking people to offences that (1) they did not commit, (2) the police have no evidence of the alleged offence, (3) that the police have taken no action against, (4) the police have never informed the alleged offender they will be recorded by Police as being responsible for an offence, and (5) the policed have not arrested, charged or prosecuted.”*

In response, let me reassure you that Police goes to great length to ensure that the information we record about individuals is accurate and complete, and that steps taken by staff comply with the NRS. I trust the information in this response provides clarity on the meaning and application of “Clearance Types” and/or “Clearance Type” link in the National Intelligence Application.

Lastly, referring to your third question, if you believe Police holds information about you that is incorrect (and should be removed or cleared) there are a number of options available: e.g., an online form accessible form: <https://www.police.govt.nz/contact-us/give-feedback-about-police>, by phone using the 105 Non-Emergency Line, or in person at a station (Station A-Z here: <https://www.police.govt.nz/contact-us/stations>).

I trust this confirmation, and the background information provided, addresses your questions. If you are not satisfied with Police’s response, you have the ask the Ombudsman to review my handling of your request.

Sincerely



**Mike Rawsthorn**  
National Crime Registrar,  
Data Quality and Integrity Team - Assurance Group