

6 May 2021

Our Reference: IR-01-21-11638

Hayden James  
[fyi-request-15093-f3a34067@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15093-f3a34067@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Hayden,

I am writing in response to the email you submitted on 6 April 2021. Your request has been considered pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Specifically, you requested:

*I am requesting information in relation to persons returning to New Zealand from overseas.*

*If a person had a active warrant upon entry to New Zealand what is the protocol as there is a mandatory 14 day quarantine period.*

*Are the persons arrested at the border and bailed till a later court date?*

*Are they arrested and held in the cells for 14 days of the quarantine and if so what precautions are taken to ensure staff and other prisoners are kept safe and no risk of infection?*

*Are they arrested at the border and sent into the 14 days at hotel quarantine? If so, are they held in police custody at the hotel do the department of corrections hold custody?*

In regard to persons entering New Zealand with an active warrant in the context of a mandatory 14-day quarantine period, Police assess the type of warrant, the offence and likelihood of the person absconding, while prioritising public safety under the Covid-19 response.

Generally, persons are not arrested at the border, however Police may arrest a person at the border in the circumstance where the type of warrant, offence and likelihood of their absconding is significant, and where this occurs any bail will be considered by the courts.

Where a person is arrested, they will appear before a court at the first opportunity. Police have infection prevention controls to keep people isolated and safe (similar to managed isolation) that includes minimising contact, such as appearance in court via video link.

Where a person is arrested at the border, they appear before the courts and the courts determine if the person is released on bail, or held in Corrections Custody, otherwise they complete their managed isolation.

## **Police National Headquarters**

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Taylor', is written over the typed name. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the top and a long, thin tail extending downwards.

Superintendent Barry Taylor  
**Director: Major Events**