

11 August 2021

Mr Matthew Hooton
Email: fyi-request-15687-1426b059@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Matthew

Official Information Request – IR-01-21-17901

Thank you for your correspondence of 05 June 2021. You requested:

Under the OIA, I request all information held by Police about the incident on Auckland Harbour Bridge on Sunday 30 May, prior to, during and after the incident. (This media report refers: <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/cycling-protesters-close-two-lanes-of-auckland-harbour-bridge/5MI32EX5XQPYQEIEICGBYWNPWU/>)

In particular, I am interested in what advance warning Police had of the incident, and what actions were taken to encourage, deter, facilitate, prevent or manage the incident. However, my request is broad and is not limited to these matters. It does not include any information relating to the prosecution of any individual, including any information that may be needed as evidence in the prosecution of any individual.

I have made separate requests for information to other agencies so this request does not cover information held by anyone other than NZ Police. Nor should this request be transferred to anyone else.

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

In the weeks leading up to the bike protest on Auckland Harbour Bridge on 30 May, Police had been working with other agencies to provide operational support. Police also liaised with event organisers right up to, and including, the day of this event. Organisers assured Police that there was no intent for their rally to lead to a ride over the Harbour Bridge.

Our focus on the day was ensuring the safety of the public and road users. Cordons were in place for this reason. While our expectations were that the bridge was not going to be accessed, Police had contingency plans organised for situations such as these where matters escalate.

After holding off an initial wave of people attempting to ride on to the bridge Police arrested one man who accessed the bridge via a side fence. However, when the crowd swelled to over a thousand people pushing through the cordon Police made a tactical decision in the interests of safety to switch to a traffic management option.

Tamaki Makaurau – Information Request Team

Piki Ki Te Ao, 482 Great South Road, Otahuhu, Auckland

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Approximately 1500 to 2000 cyclists and pedestrians then entered the Harbour Bridge.

To our current knowledge the speakers at the rally at Point Erin Reserve did not encourage attendees to ride over the bridge and in fact made sure to announce that the bridge was closed.

Please find enclosed a copy of an email that provides a de-brief of the situation. Some parts of these emails, and further relevant documents have been withheld under the following grounds of the OIA:

- **Section 6(c)** - *Any agency may refuse to disclose any information requested if the disclosure of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.*
- **Section 9(2)(a)**: *The disclosure of the information would involve the unwarranted disclosure of the affairs of another individual.*

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with Police's response to your request.

Yours sincerely,



Joanne
Northern Region Information Request Team
Service Delivery
Tamaki Makaurau