

18 August 2021

REF NUMBER: IR-01-21-23850

Darren Edward
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Dear Darren

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 request dated 3 August 2021 for information relating to the use of emergency lights on a Police vehicle.

You requested:

1. *i have a question regarding the use of Emergency Lights on a Police vehicle, if a constable would allowed to use their emergency lights without an emergency and what constitutes an emergency to warrant the use of the emergency light i.e.*
 - a. *it is appropriate to use them to stop a anyone traveling on the road ways to ask for assistance in an emergency situation or would this be deemed inappropriate?*
 - b. *is there an offense for any constable or member of the new zealand police for using their lights without an emergency?*

A Police officer is able to operate red and blue “beacons” on a vehicle, in accordance with rule 8.5(1)(a) of the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 while in the course of the officer’s duty. Accordingly, red and blue lights can be utilised by Police depending on operational requirements. Not all Police officers’ duties which necessitate the use of red and blue flashing lights involve emergencies – for example, section 114 of the Land Transport Act 1998 provides for (among other things) the Police officer to require a driver in another vehicle to stop by displaying flashing blue and red lights to complete the exercise of powers conferred, or duties imposed under that Act.

A constable may call upon others for assistance in the course of his or her duties and this is expressly referred to in various Acts. – see for example, section 51 of the Policing Act 2008.

I trust that this information is satisfactory in answering your request.

Yours sincerely



Superintendent Steve Greally
Director: National Road Policing Centre

Police National Headquarters

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