

18 July 2022

Peter Dare
fyi-request-19740-0f761137@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-10423

Dear Peter

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 23 June 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Each part of your request has been answered in turn as follows:

I wish to know the reason why NZTA has established cameras that may be used by ANPR software. I know that in my area, on SH5 there is one at the Hemo roundabout and one at Golden Springs, for example. [...]

While our cameras are generally not capable of recognising vehicle registration numbers, if automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) is required for Police investigations, then a special CCTV unit is purchased specifically for that task. However, this is on a case-by-case decision basis for crime prevention and our standard CCTV cameras are not used for that function.

Technically, our toll road cameras are also not capable of recognising vehicle registrations. Instead, our tolling systems decipher vehicle registration numbers from still images provided by cameras located at a set "detection zone" just in front of, underneath and behind the gantry.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has also consulted with Rotorua Lakes Council and has been advised that the council has access to the Waka Kotahi camera but not the ANPR camera at the roundabout at Hemo Road (SH30) and Thermal Explorer Highway (SH5).

Please let me know what arrangement NZTA has with enforcement agencies to whom the ANPR camera feeds are made available. Which agencies can access these feeds?

And in any case why is NZTA involved in these enforcement operations outside its statutory duties?

Waka Kotahi does not manage ANPR systems in a surveillance capacity.

Waka Kotahi does, however, support and work with New Zealand Police and can provide Police officers with access to non-ANPR footage for investigation purposes.

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact us by email at official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hankin', written in a cursive style.

Jacklyn Hankin

Acting National Manager, Maintenance and Operations