

9 December 2022

Ed Whakatihi  
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Tēnā koe Ed

### ***Request for information***

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 11 November 2022.  
You asked:

*Why do NZ Police not have Body Worn Cameras?*

The Ombudsman's guidelines state: "If a requester seeks information by asking a question, there is a distinction between: questions which can be answered by providing information already known to and held by the agency (official information); and questions which require the agency to form an opinion or provide an explanation and so create new information to answer the request (not official information)". Therefore, as your question is asking for an explanation, this is not considered a request for official information.

However, I can provide you research and evaluation documents relating to body-worn cameras which have been released in response to previous OIA requests on this subject.

The following documents were identified and are provided to you:

- Terms of Reference – 'Research on Body-Worn Cameras' (dated 18 April 2018)
- Research and Evaluation – Literature Review (dated 1 March 2019)
- Memorandum – 'Body-Worn Camera Evidence Review and Recommendations (dated 6 March 2019)
- Memorandum – Discussion re BWC review and recommendations (dated 14 March 2019)

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### **Police National Headquarters**

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This technology has been the subject of occasional background research associated with monitoring Australasian and global trends in law enforcement. Notably, this included work to establish a specific research project into body-worn cameras, which was initiated in early 2018 and put on hold with only a literature review and early scoping work having been done.

Since the exercise was put on hold in 2018, Police continues to monitor the use of body-worn cameras by various agencies and any potential benefits for the New Zealand policing environment, but at this time has no plans for their introduction.

Where appropriate, some information has been withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.

Police considers the interests requiring protection by withholding the information are not outweighed by any public interest in release of the information.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



**Superintendent Dave Greig**  
Director Capability

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