

17 February 2023

S Patterson
fyi-request-21449-c13cf641@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear S Patterson

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 request dated 18 December 2023, in which you requested the following:

“Can you please provide what happened to your old film stocks when you switched over to digital for both surveillance but also that was used for gathering evidence and also can you provide the timeframe for when the switch occurred.”

I apologise for the delay in responding.

Police does not hold records of surveillance photography procedures specific to your request, however I can advise that in general, photographs using film stock were provided to the requesting investigation team and not held centrally. Police surveillance staff have used digital cameras for over 20 years and likewise provide digital images to the requesting investigators. There is no centralised repository of old film stock photographs.

In respect of forensic photography, a number of forensic imaging units around the country have been digitising all relevant photographic evidence. Many of the negatives go back to the 1960s. All homicides and cases of public interest are being kept as negatives plus scanned into a digital format. Low-end offending negatives (for example wilful damage and road crashes) are destroyed as per the destruction and retention requirements in the Public Records Act 2005.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at:
www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Director John van den Heuvel
New Zealand Police