

29 June 2023

Nick  
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Tēnā koe Nick

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

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 10 June 2023. You wrote:

*I am enquiring about NZ police identification numbers (QID) and whether this information by law must be supplied to a member of the public when asked for.*

*Additionally, does the public have access to information linked to said QID number. And where can they seek that information.*

A member of New Zealand Police is identifiable by their unique identifier, known as QID. A QID contains a mixture of letters and numbers that is associated with that individual. For uniformed members, this is displayed on their epaulettes.

Some Acts set out when and how police need to identify themselves in context-specific situations. Two examples are:

- Section 113(1) and (2) of the Land Transport Act 1998 provide that an enforcement officer in uniform or in possession of a warrant or other evidence of their authority as an enforcement officer may enforce the provisions of the Land Transport Act.
- Section 121 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012 (which contains a power to stop vehicles with or without a warrant for the purposes of search), provides that a person who exercises a power under that section must, on the request of a person affected by the exercise of the power (among other things):
  - a. Identify themselves either by name or by unique identifier; and
  - b. If not in Police uniform, produce evidence of his or her identity.

The New Zealand Police Manual comprises all instructions and guidance in chapters for administrative and operational aspects of policing, including nationally consistent standard operating principles, practices, policies, and procedures (referred to broadly as 'policy').

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### **Police National Headquarters**

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.  
Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. [www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

The chapter that is relevant to your request is Uniform, Dress Standards, and Appearance<sup>1</sup>. Page 46 of the chapter is specifically about identification.

There is no public list of all Police staff.

I recommend that you contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau or Community Law Centre (most offer free legal advice sessions) to discuss the particular circumstances that you are concerned with and to get advice about the applicable law.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Greig', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Superintendent Dave Greig**  
Director Capability

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/uniform-dress-standards-and-appearance-police-manual-chapter>