

21 September 2023

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Tēnā koe Nikki

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 14 August 2023. You asked for information regarding Police engagement with kaumātua.

It is important to note that police work alongside kaumātua in order to build and strengthen Police's relationship with iwi. Kaumātua who engage with police in this way are selected by iwi and are not Police employees.

My response to each of your questions can be found below.

1. *Please provide a list of all Police Kaumatua that have been in the role since 2020*

The relationships between Police and kaumātua are not coordinated at a national level, they are established within individual Police districts. As there is no national list of kaumātua who have engaged with Police since 2020, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held.

2. *Are Police Kaumatua vetted and does vetting include a Police Check?*
3. *What convictions are allowable for Police Kaumatua?*
4. *Are there any current or previous Police Kaumatua who haven't been police checked?*

As previously noted, kaumātua are appointed by iwi and are not Police employees. There is no prerequisite for them to be vetted, as would be the case for Police employees.

5. *Has Jeff Haimona Tukua also known as Jeff Tukua ever been employed by New Zealand Police in any official capacity? If so what role or roles? Paid or unpaid or both? Including koha.*

Mr Jeff Tukua has not been employed by Police in any role but has attended the following events without koha. Koha is a gift, present, offering, donation or contribution that is used to acknowledge a relationship and should not be viewed in the same way as payment for service.

Date	Location	Description
12/09/2022	Howick Police Station	Opening and blessing
5/11/2022	Ormiston Police Station	Support 10-year anniversary
11/11/2022	Otahuhu Police Station	Blessing of Taonga

6. *How much was he paid if anything by New Zealand Police?*
7. *What were those payments in exchange for and when?*

As previously noted, kaumātua are not employed by Police and so are not paid by Police.

8. *Has anyone at New Zealand Police vetted Jeff Tukua for his Police Kaumatua role or any role? Yes/No*
9. *If "no", why not?*

Please see my response to questions 2 to 5 of your request.

10. *Does anyone at New Zealand Police monitor media articles about Police officers and request amendments and retractions where appropriate e.g where false information is printed in a caption or in the article?*

Police's Media team monitor media articles and may on occasion request corrections where there are factual inaccuracies. Police supports a free and open press.

11. *Do New Zealand Police think it is appropriate for a person who can't pass a police check is used to help officially open a police station? Yes/No.*
12. *In particular someone who has convictions that are disallowed under the Vulnerable Children's Act 2014.*

Police is not obliged to form an opinion or create information to answer an OIA request. The OIA cannot be used to force agencies to engage in debate or to create justifications or explanations in relation to something a person might be interested in. These parts of your request are therefore refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held.

However, Police will consider these parts of your request to be a complaint and will contact you in that regard.

13. *Is it appropriate for uniformed police officers to be photographed with convicted criminals in an official capacity? If so when*

Police work alongside a number of community groups and organisations with people of all walks of life and this may include people who have criminal convictions. Depending on the event or purpose of the interaction, it can often be appropriate and expected for police officers to be photographed with the people/group.

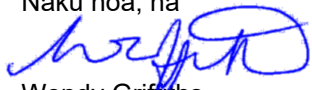
14. *Do New Zealand Police concede that having photographs with uniformed police may give the perception that they are a safe person?*
15. *Do the New Zealand Police concede such photographs may put children in danger especially in this case where Jeff Tukua has attended at least three primary schools since being photographed with uniform police (all publicly recorded on social media or school websites or on One News)?*

As previously noted, Police is not obliged to form an opinion or create information to answer an OIA request. These parts of your request are therefore refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held.

Please note that as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police proactively releases some information and documents that may be of interest to the public. An anonymised version of this response may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Wendy Griffiths
Advisor
New Zealand Police