



Ref: AFS 14/6636/2

17 February 2015

Liam Stoneley  
C/- fyi-request-2421-3cda5f06@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Stoneley

**Re: Official Information Act Request re Police Informants**

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 20 January 2015 received via email, in which you sought information on the following:

1. How many Paid Police informants you have. Could you please break this down into Areas, not just Districts.
2. How are they remunerated.
3. How much are they, on average, remunerated per interaction.
4. What legal relationship do the Police have with the informants? Are they employed, with a contract or are they paid "under the table".
5. Please provide any policy document or manual for Police dealing with informants.

Police rely on the community to provide information to assist in the investigation of crime, and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders. The vast majority of information is provided by victims of crime or witnesses. On occasions information is provided on a confidential basis by informants. Exposing those informants to the glare of publicity would place their safety at serious risk and would reduce the effectiveness of that programme.

Providing details about the number of informants and the areas in which they work would create law enforcement risks because criminals may be able to exploit any gaps in our capability. They could move into areas in which they believe no police informants work. Identifying the number of informants in small areas could lead to actually identifying who the informant is; this would usually occur by combining other known information such as the average remuneration levels and then narrowing down the possible people. This could also lead to members of the public being wrongly identified and threatened as informants.

Providing the public with our sensitive policy or manual information would once again merely arm criminals with information about our methodologies and how we work in this field. They would use this to reduce our capability to solve serious crime.

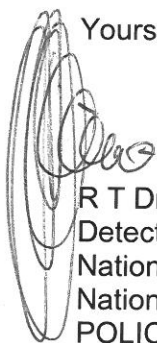
Therefore, in respect of questions 1, 3 and 5 police are not willing to make public operational information about its informant programme because disclosing information would help criminals know more about the operating methods of police, how many informants were available and in which areas. This would not be in the public interest. Therefore your request in respect of questions 1, 3 and 5 is refused pursuant to section 6(c) of the Official Information Act as the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences.

In respect of question 2, police have acknowledged publicly on numerous occasions that Police pay some informants money for information.

In respect of question 4, the relationship between Police and the informant is purely voluntary and is totally confidential.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R T Drew', is written over a large, light-colored oval stamp or watermark.

R T Drew  
Detective Superintendent  
National Manager  
National Criminal Investigations Group  
POLICE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS