



30 November 2023

By email: [fyi-request-24750-70e8da43@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-24750-70e8da43@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe

**Official information request for Crown Law Prosecution Guidelines**  
**Our Ref: OIA353/1**

1. I refer to your official information request of 14 November 2023 for “a copy of the ‘Crown Law Prosecution Guidelines’ that the NZ Police Prosecution Service follows.”
2. The Solicitor-General is responsible for the general oversight of public prosecutions. In exercising that responsibility, the Solicitor General periodically issues guidelines on the conduct of public prosecutions (**Guidelines**).
3. As a general principle, all public prosecutions – including those handled by Police – should comply with the Guidelines. However, the Guidelines are not an instruction manual for prosecutors and do not cover every decision that must be made by prosecutors and enforcement agencies. They do not purport to lay down any rule of law.
4. In total, there are twelve (12) individual documents that make up the Solicitor-General’s Guidelines. Those documents are publicly available on Crown Law’s website and can be accessed [here](#). The primary document within the Guidelines that appears most relevant to your request is the *Solicitor-General’s Prosecution Guidelines 2013*, a copy of which is **enclosed**.

**Proactive release**

5. We may publish this response on our website if we decide proactive release of this information is or may be in the public interest. If you have any concerns about this, please let us know within 10 working days of the date of this letter.

**Your right to seek and investigation and review**

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

Nāku noa, nā  
**Crown Law**

Philip Coffey  
Manager, Public Prosecutions Unit