



13 June 2012

Alex Harris

fyi-request-251-999c9d42@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex Harris

I refer to your request of 24 May 2012 in which you requested

- all advice (including briefings, internal reports, cabinet papers, consultation with the Privacy Commissioner etc) on the ANPR trials referred to in the 2011 Annual Report;
- any report (interim or otherwise) on the outcome of those trials.

Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) is a technology that uses optical character recognition on images to read the licence plates on vehicles. Systems can scan and check number plates at around one per second. This process is traditionally done via a conversation between an officer and a communications dispatcher on the police radio. ANPR is the automation of this process. ANPR is an effective operational tool which has been successfully implemented by enforcement agencies around the world. It is designed to assist police to identify vehicles of interest without disrupting other road users.

Police are currently piloting and evaluating this innovative technology. It commenced in 2010 with the Counties Manukau and Wellington Police Districts. The pilot has a strong focus on increasing road safety and reducing criminal activity. It does not include surveillance of regulatory offending such as expired registration offences, nor does it store any form of facial recognition. ANPR has not yet been deployed in its full operational capability within police districts.

There are two mobile camera vans each equipped with two cameras. As part of this pilot project, an evaluation was completed involving the deployment of the ANPR vehicle in the Counties Manukau police district during the period 15 April 2010 to 23 March 2011. A second evaluation involved the deployment of an ANPR equipped vehicle in the Wellington police district during the period of 30 July 2010 and 23 March 2011.

Currently, one mobile ANPR equipped vehicle is deployed in Counties Manukau and one mobile ANPR equipped vehicle is deployed in the Waitemata Police Districts.

Safer Communities Together

POLICE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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I have attached a copy of the manual developed for use for the trial programme. The manual is essentially in draft form and is subject to change as the programme completes the trial process.

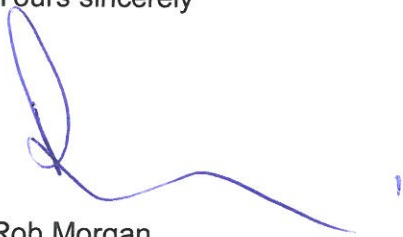
However, your request for all advice and reports is refused pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research. The amount of documentation held in relation to the ANPR trials is considerable and to collate the documentation would entail several days' work. Police would consider imposing a charge for the time taken for collation in accordance with the Ministry of Justice's charging guidelines. Please advise if you wish to pay the charge.

If after reading the information I have provided you have a request for specific information related to the ANPR trial or any further queries. I would be happy to consider that.

As the project is still in a pilot stage, I am withholding interim evaluations is refused pursuant to section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act. This section of the Act applies in order to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through -(i) The free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation of officers and employees of any Department or organisation in the course of their duty. I do not believe there are any considerations under section 9(1) of the Official Information Act 1982 rendering it desirable in the public interest to make the information available which would outweigh the reason for withholding.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



Rob Morgan
Acting Superintendent
Acting National Manager: Road Policing