

IR-01-24-32069

4 October 2024

James
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Tēnā koe James

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 7 September 2024. You requested information related to Police monitoring of social media.

Please see below a response to each of your questions.

From January 1st 2024 to September 7th 2024, how many visits/checks have police conducted concerning social media posts?

How many of these have visits/checks have resulted in follow up attendance?

Police conduct visits for many reasons. While in some instances Police may conduct visits on receiving information about social media posts of concern, this information is not recorded in Police's centralised systems. To obtain this information would involve extracting all instances of such visits and manually reviewing these to determine whether a visit occurred as a direct result of a social media post, efforts which would not necessarily yield an accurate total. I am therefore refusing these parts of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held by Police and Police has no reason to believe it is held by another agency.

How many of these checks/visits occurred where the person/people concerned held a firearms license? Specifically in Auckland?

Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority has advised that if there were concerns about the fit and proper status of a firearms licence holder based solely on their social media posts, a fit and proper assessment would be made. That assessment may lead to words of advice, such as a warning letter issued, or in severe cases, suspension or revocation. If there was an escalation in terms of rhetoric following a warning, the matter may be reconsidered for further regulatory action. As in all cases, these matters are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and on occasion, engaging with the firearms licence holder in person to understand, clarify and resolve the situation is the right approach.

However, this data is not recorded in the Police system in a way that is easily retrievable, and to provide the number of checks and/or visits in relation to firearms licence holders who had come to Police attention due to their social media posts would require a manual search of each file in

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the Police National Intelligence Application (NIA). Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA.

How many checks/visits relating to social media posts were carried out just in Auckland during this period? Number of follow up visits?

As outlined above, Police does not record details of visits which have taken place solely due to social media posts on either a district or national level. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA.

How many police personnel if any, currently monitor social media posts on a full time basis?

Please provide the number of staff if any, employed to monitor social media on a year by year basis since 2017.

Police does not employ any staff on a full-time basis for the sole purpose of monitoring social media. A number of Police staff employed in national and district teams conduct research on social media, however this takes place in response to a specific reported issue. Police also has staff in the Media and Communications team responsible for creating content for and moderating Police social media accounts. However, they are not responsible for monitoring social media outside of comments on Police's account and are not tasked with investigating online behaviour.

How many notices to inspect firearms have been issued and executed in the time period above in Auckland?

In terms of inspections of firearms, the one instance where this could occur is when a permit to import a new arms item is made. Te Tari Pūreke may request that item to be sent to the Police Armourer for inspection. This enables the item to be classified in accordance with New Zealand legislation.

However, aside from this one circumstance, I can advise that Police do not issue notices to inspect firearms. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held by Police and Police has no reason to believe it is held by another agency.

How many complaints concerning social media posts have police received on a year by year basis since 2017?

Police does not keep specific records of complaints in relation to social media posts.

I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA for the reasons outlined above.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Dan Wildy PhD
Director National Intelligence
New Zealand Police
