

16 December 2024

James

fyi-request-29230-154dd65d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear James

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 18 November 2024, in which you requested information about drone use over the hikoi in Auckland.

My response to each part of your request can be found below.

Were police aware at the time of a drone filming the hikoi on the motorway and part way up the harbour bridge? If yes, please provide all communications and details around this event.

Yes, Police became aware of a drone flying at approximately 9.45am at the crest of the Harbour Bridge. Please refer to the attached relating to this noting some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Any notes, details and communications concerning permission given or requested regarding drone use to film the hikoi on the bridge and motorway.

Police does not have airspace control as this regulatory function sits with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Police did not have any request for permission, or the ability to grant or deny that permission, from the drone pilot. Please refer to the www.aviation.govt.nz website for more information.

Details of interactions if any, with the drone pilot on the day. Number of police tasked with overseeing the drone use on the day.

Police did locate and speak to the drone pilot and reminded them of their obligations to comply with their requirements to fly.

The resources used to detect and investigate drone flights are withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand
- 9(2)(c): to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public.

Number of police deployed in total, tasked specifically with the overseeing the safe crossing of the Harbour bridge by the hikoi.

Police assigned 22 staff to move on foot with the hikoi as it crossed Auckland Harbour Bridge.

Given the huge risk to public safety, measures taken by police to stop unauthorised drone use.

The CAA are the agency responsible for the safe flying of drones. In this case Police spoke to the pilot to ensure the drone use was compliant with CAA rules. www.airshare.co.nz provide a simplified version of these rules.

Was the Harbour bridge anti drone system triggered in any way, on the day of the hiko? If yes, please provide details.

The Auckland Harbour Bridge does not have an anti-drone system.

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.

Yours sincerely



Marc Paynter
Inspector
New Zealand Police



POLICE
Nga Pirihimana O Aotearoa

Record [148900085109] - Intelligence Noting, 13/11/2024, 10:07, OP DOVE

Summary

Occurred Dates and Times

On/From: Wed 13/11/2024 10:07:00
 Category: Intelligence Noting
 Type: Car/Person Acting Suspiciously
 Reporting channel: Officer - discovered
 Scene station: Glenfield
 Reporting station: North Shore Policing Centre
 Subject: Operation Dove - Drone Usage
 Reference: OP DOVE
 Location: (At) 2 Queen Street, Northcote Point, Auckland 0627
 Narrative: Created by WSW676 13/11/2024 10:20

Created on 13 Nov 2024 at 10:07hrs

s9(2)(a) and s9(2)(a) spoken to at The Wharf, Northcote Point. Both are amateur operators and refused to cease drone flying stating they were allowed to be law. They were explicitly warned police eagle helicopter was operating in the area which could be a risk to safety. Both warned against obstructing the police helicopter through their drone usage.

Summary >>>> Member

Reporting member

User ID: WSW676
 Rank & name: Stainton, Warwick
 Workgroup: Road Policing Teams
 W/G station: North Shore Policing Centre

Creating member

Date/time: Wed 13/11/2024 10:20:15
 User ID: WSW676
 Rank & name: Stainton, Warwick
 Workgroup: Road Policing Teams
 W/G station: North Shore Policing Centre

Summary >>>> Last Modified

Modifying member

Date/time: Wed 13/11/2024 10:20:16
 User ID: WSW676
 Rank & name: Stainton, Warwick
 Workgroup: Road Policing Teams
 W/G station: North Shore Policing Centre

Analyst Details

Reliability rating

Source reliability: A-Completely Reliable
 Information reliability: 1-Confirmed

Visual Linker

Existing Links in this record

Created in this Record	Type	Description	Link Type	Type	Description
Yes	Person	Police, s9(2)(a)	Home	Telephone Number	s9(2)(a)

Existing Links in this record

Created in this Record	Type	Description	Link Type	Type	Description
Yes	Person	s9(2)(a)	Spoken To At	Location	s9(2)(a)
Yes	Person		Spoken To At	Location	
No	Person		Home	Telephone Number	
No	Person		Cell	Telephone Number	

External References

External References (1)

Source	External Reference	Type	Created On
Police	ca3e20ca-2ba8-48ef-abf1-e2ce45b04660	eEquip Record Id	13/11/2024 10:20

Containing >>>> Persons

Persons (2)

Alerts	Source	Gender	Name	DOB	Address	PRN	Driver Licence No.
N	Police	Male	s9(2)(a)				
N	Police	Male					

Containing >>>> Locations

Locations (1)

Alerts	Geo Coded	Location Details	Proximity	Common Names
No	Geocoded NIA Location	2 Queen Street, Northcote Point, Auckland 0627	Occurred At	Northcote Wharf Northcote Point

Containing >>>> Tel. Numbers

Telephone Numbers

	Area	Base Number	Ext.	Town Located	Usage	Country Code	Country Located
N	s9(2)(a)					New Zealand - 64	
N						New Zealand - 64	

Attachments

Attachments (1)

Associated To	File Details	Type
Intelligence Noting, 13.11.2024, 10.07.00, Op Dove, 2 Queen Street, Northcote Point, Auckland 0627	Noting Officer Copy - WSW676 - 20241113-1007 - 148900085109.pdf	Noting

From: [FERGUS, Mark](#)
To: [FORDYCE, Pauline](#)
Subject: Op Dove OIA - TM Phase
Date: Monday, 2 December 2024 11:34:38
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Re Drone query:

Source: RIOD Log – Op Dove
Reference : RLE:0044991
Wed 13 Nov 2024 09:48
Description: Drone above Harbour Bridge

Notes:

A drone has been seen at the crest of the Harbour Bridge. Drone is filming the Hikoi. No operator is known. Eagle are on scene and aware of the drone. They have observations on the drone, so no safety concerns for Eagle.

Image of operator circulated via teams chat,.

10005 hrs S/Sgt W Stanton, M Ways has located drone operator, aware of lawful airspace requirements. No intention follow beyond HB. Advised that no drone flights permissible within 4KM radius of heliport at Tamaki Drive should they choose to continue to follow Hikoi. Also advise to be aware of Eagle having priority airspace.

-ends-

Mark Fergus
Inspector
District Manager: Operations and Support
Waitemata District

Cell: s9(2)(a)

E [XXXX](#)



□

Image of drone operator to follow.



AAL 10/2 harbour bridge

ANDERSON, Graeme (Grae)

Image of drone operator to follow.

Confirm location of that drone operator please That image is from an intersection by Stafford Park I cant see or hear a drone fyi

Getting a few more vehicles stopping on the motorway, Motorways unit 10.2

Fisherman's Wharf Drone Operators s9(2)(a) Both warned against obstructing Eagle. Noting entered.

Do we have a cut off time for groups entering at Stafford? I know the 11.30 cut off relates to getting off the bridge.