

11 May 2026

Jakob Parker
fyi-request-32470-553cef66@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Jakob

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 4 October 2025 seeking information about any technology deployed on New Zealand Police vehicles that is capable of actively scanning, capturing, or processing vehicle registration plates.

I have listed each of your questions below, along with the relevant Police responses:

I am seeking information about any technology deployed on New Zealand Police vehicles that is capable of actively scanning, capturing, or processing vehicle registration plates (automatic number-plate recognition / ANPR, LPR, plate-scanning cameras or similar systems).

Specifically, please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2024 to present (or, if easier, details of the systems currently in use and any systems used during the past 12 months):

1. A description of all systems used on police vehicles capable of detecting, reading, or scanning number plates (make/model, vendor, and software where applicable).

Across the country there are eleven Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) equipped Police vehicles. Those vehicles use three 3M ANPR P442 cameras mounted on the vehicles' lightbars.

2. Whether these systems perform real-time scanning of plates in the vehicle's vicinity (as opposed to only targeted/manual scans). If so, please describe how "vicinity" is defined operationally (range/coverage).

The system performs real-time scanning of vehicle registration plates, theoretically with capability of up to 3,000 reads per hour.

Information relating to the range of the technology and the meaning of 'vicinity' within the context of your request is contained in the 'ANPR Camera Alignment' document, which is provided to you with this response.

3. The intended operational uses of the vehicle-mounted plate-scanning systems (e.g. offender detection, stolen vehicle checks, surveillance, missing persons, traffic enforcement).

Police National Headquarters

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Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. www.police.govt.nz

The Police Instructions chapter 'Automatic Number Plate Recognition' contains the information you have requested. This document is published on the New Zealand Police website, at:

[Automatic number plate recognition - Police Manual chapter | New Zealand Police](#)

This part of your request is therefore refused pursuant to s18(d) OIA in that the information is publicly available.

4. Whether the systems operate continuously while the vehicle is on patrol, only when activated, or in other modes — and what triggers activation.

Once the system has been logged into, it becomes fully operational. The system generates alerts whenever a licence plate read matches a vehicle's registration plate stored in the database.

5. What databases or watchlists the scanned plate data is checked against (e.g., Police national databases, Waka Kotahi, NZTA, other interagency or private lists).

The 'Automatic Number Plate Recognition' Police Instructions chapter contains the information you have requested, which as outlined above is published on the Police website. This part of your request is therefore refused pursuant to s18(d) OIA in that the information is publicly available.

6. Data capture and retention practices: What data is stored when a plate is scanned (plate text, photo/image, GPS coordinates, timestamp, vehicle make/model, etc.)? Retention periods for the different data types. Where and how the data is stored (on-vehicle, central servers, cloud providers — and their locations).

Once a registration plate is scanned the information collected and stored are the GPS coordinates, date, time and the registration plate as read by the camera.

The data is stored within the secure in-vehicle system, then if required is transferred to a secure standalone system for processing at the end of each shift. If not required, the data is deleted.

7. Who has access to scanned plate data (roles/groups) and what access controls/auditing exists.

ANPR data is managed in accordance with the Police Information Security policy. This policy is published on the Police website, at:

[Information security: Overview - Police Manual chapter | New Zealand Police](#)

This part of your request is therefore refused pursuant to s18(d) OIA in that the information is publicly available.

8. Any policies, internal guidelines, or standard operating procedures that govern the use of vehicle-based plate-scanning systems. Please provide copies of those documents.

As outlined above, the Police Instructions chapter 'Automatic Number Plate Recognition' is published on the Police website. This part of your request is therefore refused pursuant to s18(d) OIA in that the information is publicly available.

9. Any privacy impact assessments, legal advice, risk assessments, or similar reviews carried out in relation to these systems. Please provide copies.

The relevant Privacy Impact Assessment is available on the Police website, at:

[Privacy Impact Assessment - Police use of ANPR platforms - Simply Privacy](#)

I also enclose email correspondence between New Zealand Police staff and staff from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, which is within the scope of your request (18 pages).

Redactions have been applied pursuant to s9(2)(h) OIA in that withholding the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege, and pursuant to s9(2)(a) OIA in that withholding the relevant information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons.

10. Details of any contracts, procurement documents, or Memoranda of Understanding with vendors or other agencies relating to vehicle plate-scanning technology (please supply redacted copies where necessary).

In relation to ANPR technology deployed on Police vehicles, there are no contracts, procurement documents, or Memoranda of Understanding in existence. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under s(18)(e) of the OIA, in that the information requested does not exist.

11. Any known instances, summaries, or statistics of how often plate scans have resulted in actionable matches in the period requested (e.g., number of hits on watchlists, arrests resulting from scans) - aggregated if necessary for privacy.

Police do not record the information requested in a format that can be readily retrieved. To find this information, Police would have to access every investigation file across multiple systems and conduct a manual assessment of each. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(f) OIA, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

I consider that fixing a charge under s15 OIA, extending the time limit for this response under s15A OIA or consulting with you further will still not enable a response to be made to this part of your request.

12. Details of training given to staff in the operation and lawful use of plate-scanning technology

Prior to operating ANPR equipped Police vehicles, Police members are trained on the use of the technology. This training includes:

- activating the system
- operating the system
- transferring data
- vehicle deployment and setup
- stopping vehicles

- information security
- safe vehicle operation whilst using technology

I trust that the information provided is of use to you. If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision. Information on how to do this is available online at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Warren Olsson
Detective Inspector
National Criminal Investigations Group
Police National Headquarters