

26 March 2026

Hayden

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Dear Hayden

***Request for information***

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received 26 February 2026 in which you asked follow up questions about the roadside drug testing regime. I have answered each part of your request below.

*What are the documented real-world false positive and false negative rates for the Pathtech Securetec Drugwipe 3 S when used by police officers in actual roadside conditions (real human saliva, variable temperatures 5–35 °C, no centrifugation, real drivers)?*

Police currently holds no information on “real-world false positives or false negative rates”. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information is not held by Police.

Police ensured that due diligence and verification testing (which used real donor oral fluid) was conducted to meet the requirements set out by procurement and prescribed testing standards. The DrugWipe 3 S met those requirements.

Police officers are trained to ensure they follow the manufacturer’s guidelines for use, and this includes how to undertake testing with drivers, as well as other considerations such as temperature and storage.

It should be noted that the manufacturer must adhere to strict regulations in order to distribute the DrugWipe 3 S, which is currently used in over 40 countries worldwide.

*Has this exact device (or the DrugWipe 3 S family) been subjected to any independent field trials or operational pilot studies in New Zealand or Australia involving real drivers and confirmatory blood/oral fluid testing? If yes, please provide the full results, including exact false positive/negative rates per drug. If no, why was the device approved for random testing without such data?*

Police is not immediately aware of any independent trials or pilot studies in New Zealand or Australia. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information is not held by Police.

**Police National Headquarters**

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The Land Transport Act sets out the approval requirements for an oral fluid screening device under section 71G. Police has met all requirements set out in the legislation, and the devices in use by Police have been approved by the Minister of Police.

*The AS/NZS 4760:2019 standard (Appendix C3) that this verification relies on was developed under Dr Michael Robertson as Chair of the Standards Australia committee, with explicit “support of device manufacturers”. Dr Robertson’s company (Independent Forensic Consulting) was then paid by NZ Police to verify the Pathtech device against that same standard.*

*a) Were any conflict-of-interest declarations made by Dr Robertson or committee members regarding connections to device manufacturers (including Securetec or Pathtech) during the 2014–2019 standard revision?*

No conflicts of interest were declared.

*b) Were any conflict-of-interest declarations made for the 2025 verification report itself?*

No conflicts of interest were declared.

*If no real-world field data exists, how can NZ Police justify imposing immediate 12-hour driving bans on the basis of a device that has only been proven to work in perfect laboratory conditions?*

The requirement to forbid a person from driving for 12 hours is set out in section 94A of the Land Transport Act 1998. The Land Transport (Drug Driving) Amendment Bills were presented to and considered by Parliament before it passed the changes into law. Police respects the sovereignty of Parliament to enact legislation. The role of Police is to enforce the laws as enacted.

If you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request, you have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to ask the Ombudsman to review my decisions. Information on how to do this is available online at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely



**Superintendent Steve Greally**

Director: Road Policing  
New Zealand Police