

1 May 2026

Nigel Gray
fyi-request-34222-4f7acfeb@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Nigel

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request to Ministry of Justice which was partially transferred to New Zealand Police on 2 April 2026. I have answered each part transferred below:

Evidence for Safety and Scientific Claims The Minister of Police also stated that: "The DrugWipe 3 S has also been used safely in Australia for more than twenty years with no recorded harmful reactions."

Please provide:

- 4. The evidence, reports, or data sources held by the Ministry of Justice that support this claim.*

Police sought confirmation from Pathtech Pty Ltd, the supplier of the DrugWipe 3S device, as to whether any harmful reactions have been reported from use of the device in Australia. Pathtech advised Police that it is not aware of any recorded harmful reactions associated with use of the DrugWipe 3S in Australia.

Police also sought confirmation from the manufacturer regarding the biological safety of the device. The manufacturer has advised that the materials used in the DrugWipe 3S are biologically safe for their intended use. A copy of the manufacturer's statement addressing allergic reaction risk is included with this response.

- 5. Any scientific validation studies, accuracy assessments, false positive/false negative rates, or environmental contamination analyses relating to the DrugWipe 3S that were considered during legislative vetting or BORA analysis.*

Police holds operational and procurement-related scientific validation and accuracy assessments of the DrugWipe 3S, including reports prepared to verify compliance with AS/NZS 4760:2019. These reports assess device performance and accuracy but were commissioned and used for procurement and operational readiness purposes only.

However, these assessments were not considered during legislative vetting or any analysis under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (BORA). Police did not undertake legislative vetting or BORA analysis in relation to roadside oral fluid testing legislation.

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. www.police.govt.nz

Accordingly, Police does not hold scientific validation studies or accuracy assessments of the DrugWipe 3S that were considered during legislative vetting or BORA analysis, and the information requested is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

6. *Any internal evaluations comparing the DrugWipe 3S with alternative technologies, where such evaluations informed BORA or legislative assessments.*

Police does not hold internal evaluations comparing the DrugWipe 3S with alternative technologies that informed BORA analysis or legislative assessments. While Police undertook operational and procurement-related evaluations as part of selecting a roadside oral fluid screening device, these evaluations did not form part of legislative vetting or BORA analysis. Accordingly, this information is also refused under section 18(e) of the OIA.

9. *Any documents, evaluations, or advice held by the Ministry of Justice that relate to the assessment of alternative technologies for roadside drug testing.*

Police does not hold documents, evaluations, or advice relating to the assessment of alternative roadside drug-testing technologies that were prepared for, or used in, legislative vetting or BORA analysis. Accordingly, this information is also refused under section 18(e) of the OIA.

10. *Any comparative assessments between the DrugWipe 3S and alternative technologies that informed BORA or legislative analysis.*

Police does not hold comparative assessments between the DrugWipe 3S and alternative technologies that informed BORA analysis or legislative assessment. Accordingly, this information is also refused under section 18(e) of the OIA.

For completeness, operational or procurement-related material that exists outside the scope of legislative vetting or BORA analysis does not fall within the scope of these questions.

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.

Yours sincerely



Inspector Peter McKennie
Acting Director: Road Policing
New Zealand Police