

26 May 2026

Shane Plummer  
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Dear Shane

***Request for information***

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received on 1 April 2026 regarding various Police policies, procedures and training governing high speed driving and traffic enforcement. I have answered each part of your request below.

*This request relates to New Zealand Police policies, procedures, and training governing high-speed driving and approaches during routine traffic enforcement, including the application of TENR (Tactical, Environment, Necessity, Risk).*

*To assist efficiency and avoid unnecessary collation, I request current versions of documents only, unless otherwise stated.*

**1. Policies and Operational Guidelines**

*Please provide any current policies, instructions, or operational guidelines (including Police Manual chapters, standard operating procedures, or aide-memoires) that relate to:*

*The application of TENR during:*

- *traffic enforcement*
- *high-speed driving (including exceeding the speed limit)*
- *activation of emergency lights and sirens*

*The distinction between:*

- *a routine traffic stop*
- *a high-speed approach*
- *a pursuit*

*Criteria or thresholds (including specific speed thresholds) that:*

- *justify or permit a high-speed approach*
- *apply to minor infringements (e.g. 10–11 km/h over the speed limit)*
- *require escalation, reporting, or reclassification as a pursuit, including where officers are exceeding the speed limit (e.g. by 30–40 km/h or more)*

**Police National Headquarters**

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Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. [www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

Please find included with my response a copy of the Urgent Duty Driving chapter of the Police Manual, in effect from 3 April 2025 to current.

I also refer you to the following chapters of the Police Manual which are publicly available on the Police website:

- Fleeing Driver Policy: <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/fleeing-driver-policy>
- TENR-Operational Threat Assessment: <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/tenr-operational-threat-assessment-police-manual-chapter>
- Traffic Patrol Techniques: <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/traffic-patrol-techniques-police-manual-chapter>
- Speed Enforcement: <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/speed-enforcement-police-manual-chapter>

Accordingly, these parts of your request are refused in part under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information requested is publicly available.

For completeness, I note that Police Urgent Duty Driving and related traffic enforcement activities are carried out in accordance with the Land Transport Act 1998 and the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004, which provides the statutory framework for driver obligations and police enforcement powers:

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1998/110/en/latest/#DLM7417119>

## **2. Supervisor Notification and Control**

*Please provide policies outlining:*

*When officers must notify a supervisor or communications centre when:*

- *exceeding the speed limit, including by 30–40 km/h or more where escalation, reporting, or reclassification as a pursuit may be required*
- *engaging in high-risk driving*
- *rapidly closing distance on another vehicle*
- *When a supervisor is required to take command or oversight*

*Supervisor responsibilities for:*

- *risk assessment (including TENR)*
- *ongoing monitoring*
- *directing abandonment of an approach or pursuit*

I refer you to the Urgent Duty Driving, Fleeing Driver, Traffic Patrol Techniques and Speed Enforcement chapters provided in response to part 1 of your request.

### **3. Use of Emergency Lights and Sirens**

*Please provide policies or guidance specifying:*

- *When emergency lights and/or sirens must be activated:*
- *when initiating a routine traffic stop, including from a parked position*
- *when exceeding the speed limit*
- *when approaching vehicles at speed in multi-lane or dense traffic*
- *Any permitted exceptions.*

I refer you to the relevant policies noted in my response to part 1 of your request.

### **4. Driving Safety Protocols**

*Please provide procedures or guidance relating to:*

- *Safe following distances at speed (e.g. 80 km/h and above)*
- *Lane changing and overtaking during enforcement activity*
- *Maintaining safe separation in multi-vehicle traffic situations*

The Land Transport Act 1998 and the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 govern safe following distances, lane changing, and overtaking manoeuvres. These laws apply to all drivers of all motor vehicles in New Zealand, including police officers. The Land Transport Act and related secondary legislation (such as the Road User Rule) is publicly available here: <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1998/110/en/latest/>

### **5. Roles and Responsibilities of Secondary Officers**

*Please provide any policies outlining:*

- *The role of a secondary officer in monitoring driver behaviour*
- *Any obligation to report unsafe driving or breaches of policy*
- *Oversight responsibilities relating to TENR, high-speed driving, or pursuits*

I refer you to the Urgent Duty Driving, Fleeing Driver, Traffic Patrol Techniques and the TENR manuals noted in my response to part 1 of your request.

I also refer you to the New Zealand Police Code of Conduct, which is publicly available on the Police website: <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/new-zealand-police-code-conduct>

Accordingly, this part of your request is refused in part under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information requested is publicly available.

### **6. Speed Detection Equipment (Patrol Vehicles)**

*Please provide any current operating manuals, procedures, or policy documents relating to the use of in-vehicle radar or other speed detection devices used by traffic patrol officers.*

Please find included with my response:

- Speed Detection Equipment Operators Manual (February 2025)
- Stalker DSR Traffic Radar Operators Manual

## 7. Training Materials

Please provide any current training material, modules, or course outlines relating to:

- High-speed driving
- TENR application
- Pursuit initiation and management
- Safe approaches to vehicles during routine traffic stops
- in-vehicle radar or other speed detection

Please find included with my response:

- Fleeing Driver Recruit Training - March 2026
- Fleeing Driver and Tyre Deflation Device (TDD) Lesson Plan
- Introduction to Radio Procedures Presentation
- Urgent Duty Driving (UDD) - April 2026
- System of Car Control (SOCC) Theory Lesson
- Vehicle Stop (3T) Conducting a Safe Vehicle Stop - April 2026

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