

19 June 2026

Nigel Gray
fyi-request-34336-d4485c28@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Gray

Request for information

Thanks for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 26 May 2026, seeking information about the definition of the term “ethics”, as used in Police’s *Code of Conduct*, Police values, and ethics or integrity training material. You explained that if no formally adopted or documented definition exists, you wanted Police’s confirmation of that fact.

By way of response, New Zealand Police does not have a formally adopted or documented definition of the term “ethics” in the sources you have identified. However, the concept of ethics is reflected and operationalised through:

- The Code of Conduct
- Police values
- Police’s SELF Check
- Ethics and integrity training materials
- Chapters of the *Police Manual* and other internal guidance.

Because no separate, formal, definition of “ethics” has been adopted, the term is used in Police with its everyday meaning. In other words, the term “ethics” within Police carries its dictionary definition, and is commonly understood to refer to moral principles that govern a person’s behaviour or conduct.

We trust this response satisfactorily addresses your request. That said, if you have concerns about the way in which your OIA request has been handled, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Respectfully



Mike Webb
Chief Assurance Officer
New Zealand Police