

7 May 2026

Jarrold Sullivan
fyi-request-34423-f91521dc@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Jarrod

Official Information Act Request

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 request dated 8 April 2026, in which you requested the following information regarding drivers' licenses for undercover covert operations:

How many driver licences are currently issued under alias details for the purpose of protecting the true identities of staff involved in undercover or covert investigations. I acknowledge security protections apply and seek only the total number currently issued.

The New Zealand Police Undercover Programme is a highly sensitive and covert aspect of policing. The release of any information that could reveal the number of staff operating in undercover or other specialist covert roles would provide insight into Police covert capabilities.

Disclosing the total number of driver licences issued under assumed identities for covert purposes would effectively indicate the number of covert officers deployed by New Zealand Police. Such information could enable criminal groups to better understand the capacity and scale of Police covert operations.

Accordingly, your request is refused pursuant to section 6(c) of the OIA, as the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



J R Mackie
Detective Inspector
Police National Headquarters

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