

7 July 2026

Lance Lavery
fyi-request-34447-3a4721c4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Lavery,

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 9 April 2026, in which you asked for information regarding prison informant evidence.

My response to each part of your request can be found below.

1. *Any New Zealand Police policy, guideline, standard operating procedure, or instruction governing the recruitment and use of prison informants as witnesses in criminal proceedings, including any version current at the time of the Operation Stockholm investigation (1989–1990) and any version current today.*

The part of your question relating to current guidelines about use of Prison Witnesses is refused under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information is publicly available. This is contained in the below link.

<https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/investigative-interviewing-witness-guide-011024.pdf>

The part of your question referring to guidelines from 1989 to 1990 is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 as this either does not exist or cannot be found.

2. *Any internal review, investigation report, or lessons-learned document produced by New Zealand Police following Harris's perjury conviction in September 2017, relating to the Tamihere investigation specifically or to prison informant practice generally.*

I have sought this information from the group that deal with Lessons Learned information. No information was found; therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 as it either does not exist or cannot be found.

3. *Any correspondence between New Zealand Police and Crown Law regarding changes to practice or protocol on the use of prison informant evidence.*

No information has been identified that would be within the scope of this part of your request. Therefore, this part of your request is refused pursuant to 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 as it either does not exist or cannot be found.

4. *Whether New Zealand Police maintains any register, database, or record of individuals who have provided evidence as prison informants in criminal proceedings, and if so, a description of what that register contains, not its contents'.*

Police maintain a Prison Inmate Witness Register which was established in August 2021. These are witnesses who have gained information from other inmates, while also incarcerated. They are not Informers pursuant to section 64 of the Evidence Act 2006. The Prison Inmate Witness Register records the Police Operation name, the witness name, and whether they gave evidence at a hearing/trial.

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

Yours sincerely



Detective Inspector Kepal Richards
National Criminal Investigations Group
Police National Headquarters