



Office of Hon Judith Collins

MP for Papakura
Minister of Corrections
Minister of Police

16 SEP 2016

Mr Tom Sellers
fyi-request-4482-a7bab7a9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Sellers

Thank you for your email enquiring about body-worn camera technology. You asked:

- (1) *Is the government considering the introduction of body cameras to active police personnel?*
- (2) *If yes to question (1), when would the introduction of body cameras occur?*
- (3) *If no to question (1), can you please outline your reasoning for why body cameras would not be introduced? I do not require you to cite any study or other evidence to support your claim.*

Decisions related to the deployment of police resources and tactical options are operational matters for the Commissioner of Police, not Ministers. I have, therefore, asked Police for advice on the issues you have raised.

Police officials advise me that they are not at present actively considering the introduction of body cameras for Police personnel. Police have, however, been monitoring body-worn camera technology for several years, closely observing the advancement of this technology and its potential impacts on and benefits for policing.

I am advised that the introduction of body-worn camera technology is complex and has a number of critical issues that may impact on its success, such as privacy considerations, information management impacts, infrastructure enhancements to support digital footage, impact on disclosure, and the cost of cameras versus their benefit to Police and the public.

Police would need to carefully work through and consider all factors to establish if body-worn camera technology was suitable and beneficial in terms of achieving New Zealand Police's strategic objectives.

Police remain open-minded about the future role of such technology in policing and will continue to monitor its use in other jurisdictions.

Yours sincerely

Hon Judith Collins
Minister of Police