



Ref 06/C210672/14

17 August 2017

Mr Ross Francis

By email: [fyi-request-6320-ae9a0a50@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-6320-ae9a0a50@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Francis

**Official Information Act 1982 request**

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 request dated 31 July 2017 in which you requested:

- 1. Please supply me with a copy of the official Specialist Child Interviewing Guidelines (if any) that were operational in 1992.*
- 2. Before a child can be formally interviewed by a specialist interviewer, is the written consent of the guardian(s) or parent(s) of the child required? If so, when did this policy come into effect? Is the child's written consent also required?*
- 3. I understand current guidelines state that in "most cases one video interview [of a child] will be sufficient". When did this guideline come into effect, and what was the previous guideline in regards to the recommended number of child interviews?*
- 4. If a child is to be interviewed more than once, does a second (or third) interview require justification? If so, who can justify such a decision and is it recommend that any such justification be put in writing?*

**1. Please supply me with a copy of the official Specialist Child Interviewing Guidelines (if any) that were operational in 1992.**

The 'Draft Evidential Video Interviews Guidelines 1990' were operational in 1992 (previously provided to you in response, dated 11 April 2017).

**2. Before a child can be formally interviewed by a specialist interviewer, is the written consent of the guardian(s) or parent(s) of the child required? If so, when did this policy come into effect? Is the child's written consent also required?**

Please see page three of the 'Draft Evidential Video Interviews Guidelines 1990' for consent policy prior to 2006.

Please see pages 18-19 of the 'Video Recorded Forensic Interviews with at-risk children and young people' (previously provided to you in response, dated 30 October 2016) for consent policy from 2006.

Please see pages 12-13 of the Specialist Child Witness Interview Guide (previously

provided to you in response, dated 30 October 2016) for current consent policy.

**3. I understand current guidelines state that in “most cases one video interview [of a child] will be sufficient”. When did this guideline come into effect, and what was the previous guideline in regards to the recommended number of child interviews?**

Please see page 13 ‘Video Recorded Forensic Interviews with at-risk children and young people’ for guidelines regarding number and duration of interviews from 2006 until the current ‘Specialist Child Witness Interview Guide’ came into effect in 2016.

Please see point four on page eight of the ‘Draft Evidential Video Interviews Guidelines 1990’ for guidelines regarding number and duration of interviews prior to 2006.

**4. If a child is to be interviewed more than once, does a second (or third) interview require justification? If so, who can justify such a decision and is it recommend that any such justification be put in writing?**

Please see response to question three for guidelines of situations which may require more than one interview.

The decision to complete subsequent interviews with children can be made by the Specialist Child Witness Interviewer and/or Police. Any decision to complete subsequent interviews with children would be reflected in the case file involved.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



David Kirby  
Detective Inspector  
Manager Adult Sexual Assault and Child Protection  
National Criminal Investigation Group