



IR-01-18-7188

7 September 2018

Ross Francis

By email to: fyi-request-7629-372292a5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Francis

Official Information Act 1982 request

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 request dated 21 June 2018, in which you requested information relating to historic joint operating guidelines for evidential and diagnostic video interviewing between Police and then, Child Youth and Family, now known as Oranga Tamariki Ministry for Children.

For ease of reference I have separated your request into four questions as follows:

1. *Were the guidelines at 6.2.1 in effect between March 1989 to May 1996, or was there a change to the guidelines prior to May 1996? Please provide me with copies of any changes to the guidelines between 1989 and 1996.*

The guidelines at 6.2.1 were largely in effect between 1989 and June 1996. There were no changes to the guidelines prior to May 1996. Of note, a Policy Pointer document was published in the Police Ten One magazine 106/12. The Police Ten One magazine was a monthly Police newsletter available to all staff. I have attached a copy of the Policy and Guidelines for the Investigation of Child Sexual Abuse and Serious Physical Abuse (1995/12). Please refer to point 8.4.5 which covers the guidance on the 'number of interviews' that is similar to the guidelines 6.2.1.

2. *Was the recommendation, at 4.3.1, that the interviewer should conduct only one interview, introduced in May 1996 or prior to that date? If prior, when was it introduced?*

The recommendation at 4.3.1 was in effect since 1989 I am unable to locate guidelines and policies prior to this year.

3. *Please provide me with a copy of the relevant section(s) of the most recent Police Operating Guidelines for Evidential and Diagnostic Interviewing in relation to the number of evidential interviews that should be conducted. Do the most recent guidelines encourage or allow interviewers to establish a relationship with a non-disclosing (and potentially non-abused) child over several interviews, and what are the risks (if any) of exposing such a child to multiple interviews*

I refer you to the section Interviewing Number and Duration of Interviews – Guidelines, on page nine of the Specialist Child Witness Interview Guide (previously provided to you in response, dated 30 October 2016). This policy has not changed.

4. *The Policy and Guidelines for the Investigation of Child Sexual Abuse and Serious Child Physical Abuse, dated March 1989, were based on, among other things, papers*

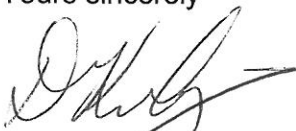
published by the National Committee on Child Abuse. Please provide me with a copy of those papers.

I am unable to locate any documents published by the National Committee on Child Abuse, therefore this question is declined under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

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.

If you have any queries about the information provided, please contact Detective Senior Sergeant Patea by email at james.patea@police.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Kirby', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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