



Reference: IR-01-18-6765

10 August 2018

B Morrison

Email: fyi-request-8135-d489ab7a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear B Morrison

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I am writing in response to your request to New Zealand Police for information, dated 27 June. Your request was pursuant to the Official Information Act of 1982 and specifically asked:

*How much was the FY 16-17 spend on the Diplomatic protection squad department?
What is the average spend per year over the last 5 years?*

Diplomatic Protection is one of the roles undertaken by our protection services group, and their annual spend falls under the operational budget of the wider Response and Operations Group. The budget not only covers diplomatic protection, but also other protection services. I refuse the release of such information pursuant to sections 6(a), 6(c) and 6(d) of the Official Information Act of 1982.

Section 6(a) provides good reason to withhold official information where the making available of the information is likely to "prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government of New Zealand."

Section 6(c) provides good reason to withhold official information where the release of that information would be likely to "prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial."

Section 6(d) provides good reason to withhold official information where the release of this information would be likely to "endanger the safety of any person."

I base this refusal on my belief that the release of the costs associated with the average spend by the Diplomatic Protection Services would prejudice the Police's ability to protect visiting guests of government and other internationally protected persons, and maintain the law in future. The provision of this costing for Police

resources to foreign dignitaries would allow a calculation to be made, accurately or not, of the NZ Police Protection Services deployment and staffing on which a threat could be based. Likewise release of the number of units and officers deployed on these visits, together with the date and length of visit, and numbers of Police hours required would provide details of the NZ Police Protection Services deployment and staffing on which a threat could be based.

If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right under Section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982 to request the Ombudsman to review my decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Scahill', with a stylized flourish below it.

Chris Scahill
Superintendent
National Manager: Response and Operations