

Hon Stuart Nash

MP for Napier

Minister of Police

Minister of Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Minister for Small Business



18/2995

8 OCT 2018

John Homer

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Dear John

Thank you for writing to me asking if New Zealand would consider employing Special Police Officers, similar to those employed in the United Kingdom. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

As Minister I cannot be involved in the day-to-day operation of Police so I have asked Police for the advice on this matter. Police inform me that, at this stage, they are not considering introducing Special Police Officers. Police work alongside a number of partner agencies, including many thousands of volunteers across the country. The contribution of these volunteers in making communities safer is highly valued. However, giving specific policing powers is not being considered at this time for these roles.

When we came into Government in October last year, we were very aware that police resources were stretched in some communities, leaving many people feeling vulnerable. That is why we have increased investment in Police, enabling Police to recruit an additional 1800 frontline staff to help make New Zealand safer.

The increase in police officers will raise the population ratio to one officer per 470 people. This is a considerable improvement on the approximately 1:540 ratio under the previous Government.

The 1,800 additional staff are to be deployed to areas where they are needed most. One of the new programmes involves the establishment of a Precision Targeting Team which will support Police's focus on priority and prolific offenders, aiming to reduce crime such as burglary and robbery. There will also be more officers in rural areas and more investigative staff to deal with gangs and organised crime.

There will also be additional resources such as mobile police stations, more highway patrol officers and detectives who can be deployed as and when they are needed.

I appreciate your interest in Police and your suggestion and thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Nash'.

Hon Stuart Nash
Minister of Police