

Luke Ellis
www.fyi.org.nz

C63102

14 August 2013

Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your email dated 22 July 2013 in which you request, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), a copy of a documentary called "Inside the Wire," and copies of other documentaries produced by the Department of Corrections for use in prisons.

This documentary was produced for Serco as part of an induction programme for new prisoners in Mt Eden Corrections Facility (MECF). The documentary is not intended to be circulated in the public arena, and no consent by those in the documentary has been given for distribution outside of the confines of MECF. We are therefore declining to release the documentary pursuant to sections 6(d) and 9(2)(a) of the OIA.

Section 6(d) of the OIA provides for withholding information if to release it would endanger the safety of any person. Disclosing the documentary poses a real, serious, and substantial risk to the safety of the victims of the prisoners who appear in the documentary. Specifically, the resulting publicity that is more than likely to occur as a result of disclosing the documentary would endanger the mental and emotional safety of the victims by forcing them to relive the situations that led to the prison sentence.

Section 9(2)(a) of the OIA relates to protecting the privacy of natural persons. We believe it is necessary to protect the privacy of those identified in the documentary. In particular, the documentary identifies individuals who are or were prisoners at MECF.

Information contained in the documentary, and the disclosure of the identity of prisoners, would, if made publically available, be likely to jeopardise the ability of the prisoners to re-enter society and find employment at the end of their sentences.

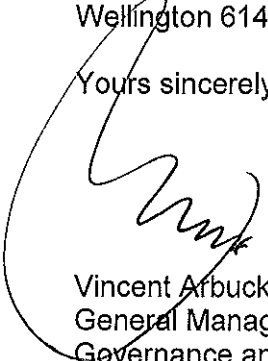
There is no public interest which outweighs the need to protect the privacy of the individuals in the documentary. The privacy interest attached to the documentary is not outweighed by any public interest considerations.

Your request for copies of documentaries produced by the Department of Corrections for use in prisons is declined pursuant to section 18 (e) of the OIA, as this information does not exist.

I have considered whether any public interest issues would outweigh the need to apply the above mentioned withholding provisions, but have not identified any.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my refusal to provide the information requested. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Vincent Arbuckle
General Manager (Acting)
Governance and Assurance