



23 December 2020

45 Pipitea Street, Wellington 6011

Phone +64 4 495 7200

Email OIA@dia.govt.nz

Website dia.govt.nz

Andrew Chen
fyi-request-13970-
8ab041d1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Andrew

Official Information Act 1982 request 2021-0224 – Facial Recognition Technology

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 13 October 2020.

You requested—

I would like to request copies of any briefings, reports, or other papers provided to Ministers about the use of facial recognition technologies since 19 October 2017.

In addition, I would like to request copies of any correspondence relating to the development of Privacy Impact Assessments related to facial recognition technologies, and/or correspondence relating to a decision not to complete Privacy Impact Assessments related to facial recognition technologies, since 19 October 2017.

As per our decision letter sent to you on 3 December 2020, we advised you that we had decided to provide the remainder of the information requested, but were preparing the documentation for release.

The relevant documentation has been prepared and I am now able to provide you with the following in response to your request:

- *Appendix A – Facial Recognition Services Business Case, 15 October 2018*
- *Appendix B – Correspondence relating to Privacy Impact Assessments*

Some information has been withheld under the following provisions of the Act:

- *9(2)(a) of the Act; to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.*
- *9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act; where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or is the subject of the information.*
- *9(2)(k) of the Act; prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.*

You will note that some information has been withheld that does not include a withholding ground; this is where the word 'seemail' appears. This is because the Department uses a secure email system which includes codes that prevent certain emails from being sent outside of the secure government network. By withholding this code it allows us to send the documentation to you successfully, without the emails bouncing back.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Philp', written in a cursive style.

David Philp
General Manager Partners and Products
Service Delivery and Operations