

29 March 2022

Mr George

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Dear Mr George

***Request for information***

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 7 March 2022, in which you asked for information regarding Police Special Tactics Group (STG). My response to each of your questions can be found below.

*Question 1: Has NZ Police ever considered, or do they have plans to open STG selection up to civilians who are not currently serving in the NZ Police? Similar to that of the NZSAS.*

New Zealand Police is not currently considering opening STG selection to people who are not constabulary employees. Police has previously considered this idea; however, it was not progressed for the reasons set out in answer to Question Two below.

*Question 2: What was the reasoning behind this decision?*

It is the skills, knowledge and experience gained as a constabulary employee that provides the foundation for being a good STG operator. STG members are constabulary employees first and foremost, who then receive additional tactical training as part of their STG role. Restricting STG selection to current constabulary employees also ensures that STG operators have the necessary legal powers granted to constabulary staff, as well as appropriate experience and currency in applying these legal powers.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



**Superintendent Andrew Sissons**

Director: Tactical Operations  
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**Police National Headquarters**

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