

5 July 2023

James

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Tēnā koe James

***Request for information***

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 13 June 2023, in which you sought:

*the full definition of a "Disorder incident" as defined, used and accepted by NZ police.*

There is no agreed definition or threshold for the use of the term 'disorder incident' for the purposes of Police media releases.

The reason being is that police operate within an environment where the circumstances can change relatively quickly. The information first reported to a communicator can be different to when a police unit first arrives on scene or when an investigation is commenced.

As such the description of an incident as a disorder incident may be appropriate in the circumstances during an unfolding situation.

Police's media team work hard to provide as much useful available information as possible. An incident can initially be coded as one type of event (such as disorder, or breach of the peace) by the communicator, depending on the information at hand, and this can change accordingly.

Sometimes while a situation is unfolding, it isn't possible to get all the details from the frontline or isn't appropriate to provide specifics of the incident.

Because there is no full definition of a disorder incident, I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



Nonumalo Juli Clausen  
Director – Media relations