

3 August 2023

Leonardo
fyi-request-23147-11903bf1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Leonardo

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 15 June 2023 in which you asked for information relating to the Eagle Helicopter.

My response to each of your questions are below.

Please provide the number of arrests facilitated or assisted by the Police Eagle helicopter from the commencement of its operational activities in Hawke's Bay until its departure to return to Auckland during the period of Cyclone Gabrielle.

Police is withholding all specific operational information about the Eagle Helicopter. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 6(c) of the OIA, as the making available of the information is likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences and the right to a fair trial.

I would appreciate receiving details regarding the substantial impact achieved through the deployment of the Police Eagle helicopter from the time it commenced operating in Hawke's Bay until it concluded its operations and returned to Auckland.

Eagle provided valuable assistance in the immediate period following Cyclone Gabrielle. Taskings included locating vehicles and individuals for ground staff, assisting with movement of staff and equipment between Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti, and supply drops into remote areas isolated by the storm. It also provided valuable real-time information and updates on road conditions and their accessibility.

While in Eastern District it also assisted with routine policing work, including tracking and locating offenders.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with Police's response to your request. You can find more information [here](#).

Yours sincerely



Richard Chambers
Assistant Commissioner – Districts
Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Eastern, Central

New Zealand Police

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