

17 January 2024

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Tēnā koe Richard

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 request dated 20 December 2023. Your questions are listed below, followed by an answer for each.

Please could you clarify what information should a member of the NZ Police provide when they are asked to identify themselves (when asked by a member of the public).

A member of New Zealand Police is identifiable by their unique identifier, known as QID. A QID contains a mixture of letters and numbers that is associated with that individual. For uniformed members below the rank of Inspector, this is displayed on their epaulettes.

Uniformed members at the rank of Inspector and above are identifiable by the name plate they wear.

Some Acts set out when and how police need to identify themselves in context-specific situations.

For example, section 121 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012 (which contains a power to stop vehicles with or without a warrant for the purposes of search), provides that a person who exercises a power under that section must, on the request of a person affected by the exercise of the power (among other things), identify themselves either by name or by unique identifier.

If there are particular circumstances you are concerned about you may be able to obtain advice about the applicable law from your local Community Law Centre or Citizens Advice Bureau.

Do NZ Police staff carry identity cards (ID), could you please provide a sample image of this for the purposes of validation and authentication.

This information can be found in the publicly available Police identity cards chapter of Police Instructions¹.

¹ <https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/police-identity-cards-redacted-090622.pdf>

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Can the public (including myself) take a picture record of this ID when produced?

Police staff are under no obligation to allow a member of the public to photograph their identity card.

Please note that as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police proactively releases some information and documents that may be of interest to the public. An anonymised version of this response may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Ngā mihi



Superintendent Dave Greig
Director Operational Capability