

Office of the Prime Minister

MP for Remutaka

Minister for National Security and Intelligence
Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



Andrew Coster
Commissioner of Police
New Zealand Police
Ministerial.Services@police.govt.nz

Ref: PMO 2023-280

Tēnā koe Commissioner

Official Information Act request relating to NGCC and LMR communications

On 19 July 2023, I received the **attached** Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request from Vince. The request was for:

"I am writing to request more information about the digital encrypted system that is being implemented, specifically regarding its impact on volunteers or staff who are at home

I am aware that there are individuals who use their own radio equipment in their personal vehicles when responding to emergencies. It is crucial that we do not exclude these dedicated individuals solely because of the introduction of digital encryption. A first responder never switches off, and it is important to maintain the ability to communicate effectively.

I am concerned that the implementation of this system will greatly impact off-duty staff who listen to radio communications, and it may reduce rural assistance if they are only permitted to use radio gear at work or in department-issued vehicles or apps. This issue pertains to the police, fire and emergency services, as well as St. John Ambulance.

I kindly request a detailed explanation of how this digital encrypted system will affect volunteers and staff who are not at work as well as what measures are being taken to address the potential reduction in rural assistance and the ability of off-duty staff to stay informed.

And if the data is kept about Off duty staff attending incidences and there importance for applying first aid and securing the Sean"

I believe that the requested information is more closely connected with the functions of New Zealand Police. Accordingly, I have decided to transfer the request to you, as Commissioner of Police under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act.

I have today informed the requestor of the transfer, and that you have the usual time limits to make a decision.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AK'.

Andrew Kirton
Chief of Staff