

26 April 2019

REF NUMBER: IR-01-19-8068

Mr Hugh Davenport
fyi-request-9857-0d595378@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Davenport

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 14 March 2019 for information relating to 1U traffic complaints and Community Roadwatch.

You requested:

I would like to request any policy on handling the 1U forms for either NZ Police in general, or for Wellington Central Station in specific, or both depending on whether the policy is a national level or not.

New Zealand Police does not have any documents regarding a policy on handling 1U complaints. Therefore, this part of your request is refused pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982, in that the document alleged to contain the information you have requested does not exist.

1. I would like to also request the following for the year 2018: The number of roadwatch submissions for the Wellington region and

New Zealand Police does not hold information regarding the number of Community Roadwatch reports that were submitted in the Wellington region. Therefore, this part of your request is refused pursuant to 18(g) of the OIA. However, Police can provide the number of Community Roadwatch reports submitted in New Zealand in 2018, this was 46,399.

- a. the number of those submissions that resulted in a letter being sent to the registered owner*
- b. the number of those submissions that resulted in the actual driver of the vehicle being spoken to by NZ Police*
- c. the number of those submissions that resulted in the actual driver getting an official warning/infringement/conviction or some other negative outcome for the driver.*

New Zealand Police does not hold this information for Community Roadwatch reports. Therefore, this part of your request is refused pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982, in that the document alleged to contain the information you have requested does not exist.

2. The number of 1U traffic complaints reported for the Wellington region and

In 2018, Police communications centre recorded 16,041 calls for service for 1U traffic complaints in Wellington Police District.

Police National Headquarters

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- a. same as above
- b. same as above
- c. same as above

New Zealand Police does not hold this information for 1U traffic complaints. Therefore, this part of your request is refused pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982, in that the document alleged to contain the information you have requested does not exist.

- d. *Oh I would also like to add a request for all the differences between the Community Roadwatch and the 1U traffic form in terms of Police processing, investigation, and possible outcomes."*

Community Roadwatch is a platform that was designed to bring awareness to motorists of their unsafe and inconsiderate driving. You can report non-urgent incidents of poor driving where you do not wish the offender to be prosecuted by completing the Community Roadwatch form online. An informal letter will be issued to the registered owner of the vehicle advising them of the allegation made and of the expected standards of driver behaviour. This does not leave of permanent mark on their record.

For urgent but non-life-threatening driving incidents you can call *555 to report these incidents. New Zealand Police endeavours to attend all reported 1U traffic complaints and always encourages members of the public to report dangerous driving. Unfortunately, due to the large volume of calls for service received, competing demands and priorities, and the availability of resources, it is not always possible for this to occur. While attendance at the time of the report may not always be possible, depending on the severity of the incident, Police often conducts inquiries with the registered owner at a later time.

In every instance reported, a record is maintained and is available to various Police workgroups to identify repeat traffic offenders, understand potential reasons for the offending, and suggest ways and means to prevent further offending from occurring. Alternatively, if you want the incident to be investigated with a view for the offender to be prosecuted, you must lodge a formal complaint with your nearest Police station where an official statement will be taken.

You have the right, under section 28 (3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



Superintendent Steve Greally
National Manager Road Policing