

INFORMATION REQUEST	
Police check point operations - Covid19	
Deadline: 8 April 2020	Date of Response: 8 April 2020

## Purpose

1. The purpose of this briefing is to provide you with an overview of Police operational checkpoint activity to enforce the travel restrictions whilst New Zealand is in Alert Level 4 due to the COVID19 epidemic.

## Background

2. On Tuesday 24 March 2020, the Prime Minister, with agreement of the Minister of Health, issued an Epidemic Notice under s5 of the Epidemic Preparedness Act 2006.
3. This allows the use of special powers by Medical Officers of Health in accordance with s70 of the Health Act 1956 for the purposes of preventing the outbreak and spread of COVID-19.
4. On Wednesday 25 March a State of Emergency was declared under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.
5. The Director General of Health, acting as the Medical Officer of Health has now issued the two orders pursuant to the Health Act:
  - 5.1. On Wednesday 25 March 2020 the Medical Officer of Health issued an order pursuant to s70(1)(m) of the Health Act in relation to non-essential business and congregating in a public place of amusement or recreation.
  - 5.2. On Friday 3 April 2020 the Medical Officer of Health issued an order pursuant to s70(1)(f) of the Health Act, requiring all persons within all districts of New Zealand to be isolated and quarantined. That means all persons in New Zealand are directed to remain at their current place of residence, except as permitted for essential personal movement and to maintain physical distancing. Exceptions are described in the order.
6. Whilst this additional legislation is available to enforcement authorities, the authority for Police to operate in line with the Land Transport Act 1998 and Search and Surveillance Act 2012 remains.
7. On Tuesday 7 April the National Emergency Management Agency provided guidance to Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups on the use of checkpoints and roadblocks.

## Planned Police Activity – Easter 2020

8. NZ Police is well prepared to deliver on the Government's intent of the Alert Level 4 travel restrictions. Guidance through a National Operation order has been disseminated to all District Commanders to ensure consistent and appropriate measures are adopted across New Zealand. (Refer appendix A).
9. The Police position is that all people in New Zealand are required to remain at their current place of residence, except as permitted for *essential personal movement*; and are required to maintain *physical distancing*, except from fellow residents within their bubble; or to the extent necessary to access or provide an *essential business*.
10. There is a power for Police to stop and inspect any vehicle, and enquire into the purpose of travel under s 71A(2) to ensure people are not travelling in breach of the Health Act orders.
11. **Check Points** led by Police will be undertaken at various locations as determined by District Commanders across New Zealand to ensure people are not travelling in breach of the Health order.
12. A graduated response will be adopted to all people who are stopped at any *Check Point*. This response is consistent with the response Police has adopted throughout Alert Level 4 to date. This response is:
  - 12.1. **Engage** with the parties and communicate with them to identify whether their current behaviour or activities are contrary to the government's response to COVID-19
  - 12.2. **Educate** them on the current requirements (if necessary) to correct their behaviour or activities
  - 12.3. **Encourage** compliance measures if required
  - 12.4. **Enforcement** – only resort to warnings or prosecutorial measures if absolutely necessary.
13. The arrest of any person will be a last resort.
14. It is expected that these *Check Points* will be focused at the origin of peoples travel as opposed to destination.
15. **Road Blocks** will not be deployed unless these are required under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act where broader engagement with the community may be required, for example if a significant Covid19 outbreak has occurred.
16. **Media messaging** has been led by Commissioner Andrew Coster and has focused on the need for people to stay home. He also noted that Police will be ramping up visibility in communities and on the roads including operating

checkpoints to ensure people are safe and complying with the COVID-19 Alert Level 4 restrictions.

17. Districts have also been doing both proactive and reactive media (including social media) around the need to stay home.
18. A road policing media release is also going out to remind people that while they should not be travelling, when they are driving to access essential services, they must follow the road rules. There have been 12 lives lost on the road since 21 March (eight since alert level 4 began).

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