

14 May 2024

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 24 April 2024. You requested:

RNZ requests release of:

1. *document/s of any type that are up to date and that show the full extent and range of image/s, and types of image, that are within the range of information as noted here*

a. *pls ensure that each and every type of image about which information is potentially is described*

b. *ditto but that is actually available*

c. *pls detail for each type of image the full potential range of uses of that type of image by NZP (or directed by NZP - eg the vendor may do the processing etc)*

d. *ditto but for actual range of uses*

2. *Pls detail the chain of handling and storing and accessing any and all types of image*

3. *If images include people's faces, or any and all other biometric data, pls make that very clear*

a. *Including providing documents that are fully up to date and spell out the extent and range of those types of images*

b. *And every way in which they are used*

c. *Or can be used*

Pls date each item of information of when it was created. Pls make clear any differentiation between outdated information, and info that currently applies eg describes a current state

Pls respond as per numbered queries

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. www.police.govt.nz

Pls redact junior staff names and retain decisionmaker names

The information you refer to in the Technology Capability List refers to a function in the Auror platform to search for historical detections of number plates – the full item reads “Vehicle registration and image search capability”, where both parts of the point should be read together.

The full extent or range of images referred to here are closed-circuit-television (CCTV) snapshots at the time of licence plate capture. The reads are made from live CCTV cameras. The information captured at the read-event is sent to the Auror platform, which Police has access to. Police staff may search the database of reads in connection with investigations, as governed by the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Policy. When a search for historical detections is made in Auror and detections are found, the results include the date, time, location of the detection, and a still image of the vehicle. If the camera is in an area where vehicles are stationary (eg, petrol station forecourt) then a still image often includes occupants in and around the vehicle. This is less often the case with moving vehicles due to the higher angle of the capturing camera.

The images can be used for any number of purposes and an extensive list does not exist and so cannot be provided. Your request for a list of the “full potential range of uses” and “actual range of uses” is therefore refused under section 18(g), as the information is not held. It is most common that these images are used to corroborate existing evidence, place vehicles at times and locations for an investigation, and as supporting evidence in criminal cases. The detection of the number plate and the still image themselves are often not as critical as the indication that there may exist CCTV footage capturing a specific event of interest (eg, petrol theft).

Police does not store or handle the images that are obtained through ANPR searches specifically but obtain the CCTV footage around the time of detection through the Auror video retrieval system. The system is described on Auror’s website¹ and Police’s use is described in the ANPR policy on the Police website².

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.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi



Dr Andrew Chen
Chief Advisor: Technology Assurance

¹ <https://www.auror.co/solutions/lpr>

² <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/automatic-number-plate-recognition-police-manual-chapter-0>