

27 May 2024

s.9(2)(a) OIA

Dear s.9(2)(a) OIA

Request for information

In your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 28 February 2024, you sought the most up-to-date information to supplement our response to your earlier OIA request [our reference: IR-01-22-29739]. Specifically, you sought confirmation of:

- *The number of times, by calendar month, since September 2022 that police have sought Number Plate Information [NPI] ("Find A Vehicle") through the Auror platform, broken down by the reason/justification for access;*
- *The number of times, by calendar month since September 2022 that police have logged NPI with Auror for active alerts ("Follow A Vehicle"), broken down by the reason/justification for access;*
- *The number of times, by calendar month, since September 2022 that police have sought Number Plate Information through the VGRID platform, broken down by the reason/justification for access;*
- *The number of times, by calendar month, since September 2022 that police have logged NPI with VGRID for active alerts, broken down by the reason/justification for access;*
- *The number of times the top 10 users of Auror have accessed the system in 2022 and 2023 and the area of police that person works for;*
- *The number of times the top 10 users of VGRID have accessed the system in 2022 and 2023 and the area of police that person works for;*
- *The dates and places police have spoken to other police services about police's use of the Auror platform.*

Given the complexities involved in collating some of this information, you were comfortable receiving a substantive reply after the date we had initially estimated. Your patience is appreciated. We can now offer responses to each of your first six questions, which are set out in the attached tables.

When interpreting these tables, it is important to remember that police will often enter the same vehicle number plate into both the VGRID and Auror platforms, meaning the same search activity will be effectively counted twice in both systems. Additionally, data in some tables include queries of the same vehicle multiple times, and so should not be equated with the total number of unique vehicles searched for using the different platforms.

Regarding the final question, inquiries with potentially relevant staff have not been able to identify any further, more recent, occasions when other policing services have been engaged on New Zealand Police's use of Auror's retail crime platform.

Police National Headquarters

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In closing, we trust the information provided addresses your areas of interest. That said, as you know, you have the right under the OIA to ask the Ombudsman to review the handling of your request if you are not satisfied with Police's response. Information about how to do so is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please also recall that, as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police sometimes proactively releases information and documents that may be of interest to the wider public. It follows that an anonymised version of this response may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Respectfully



Mike Webb
Chief Assurance Officer