

19 May 2022

s.9(2)(a) OIA
s.9(2)(a) OIA

Dear s.9(2)(a) OIA

Request for information

Thank you for your request of 22 February 2022, in which you requested the following:

- 1. The total cost to NZ Police of Policing the parliamentary protest/occupation.*
- 2. All documents, advice, communications etc between the Minister of Police, the Police Commissioner and the Prime Minister relating to the parliamentary protest occupation.*

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), and I can now provide the following response.

As you may be aware, the Independent Police Conduct Authority (IPCA) has commenced an independent investigation and review (Review) of the policing of the occupation on and around Parliament grounds in Wellington during February and March 2022 (Protest).

Details of the scope of the Review are available on the IPCA's website¹ and you will note this scope includes Police engagement at local and national government levels with those holding decision rights and responsibilities, including public and private sector actors.

Whilst this Review is underway, information relating to the issues under investigation and review is expected to be the subject of examination by the IPCA under its powers of investigation under the IPCA Act 1988. With this Review commenced, there is a strong public interest in allowing these matters to be considered in the round by the IPCA.

We consider the following information requested may be released as indicated:

- 1. The total cost to NZ Police of Policing the parliamentary protest/occupation.*

As at 31 March 2022, Police had incurred actual costs totalling \$2.557m on Parliament protest. These costs cover expenditure incurred directly in response to the protest such as accommodation, food supplies, towing consumables, airfares and vehicles, venues and helicopter hire costs. It does not include any personnel costs of the staff assigned to this operation. Please refer to Table 1 below for a breakdown of these costs.

Table 1: Cost breakdown

Accommodation	\$1,337,942
---------------	-------------

¹ <https://www.ipca.govt.nz/Site/publications-and-media/2022-media-releases/2022-mar-24-investigation-review-occupation-parliament.aspx>

Travel/Transport	\$672,346
Food	\$284,409
Equipment hired/purchased	\$186,321
External providers	\$52,793
Other	\$23,902
Total	\$2,557,713

We consider that the following information requested tends to go to the heart of the matters that are under investigation and review by the IPCA:

2. All documents, advice, communications etc between the Minister of Police, the Police Commissioner and the Prime Minister relating to the parliamentary protest occupation.

Where such information is available, it is withheld in reliance upon section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA. It is in the public interest for the Review to be completed without earlier predetermination of the matters it is considering.

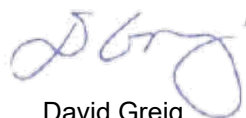
We envisage relevant information will be released following the conclusion of the IPCA's Review.

The IPCA anticipates the Review will be completed and reported on by 31 March 2023. Police recognise the importance of transparency in these matters and look forward to the release of the IPCA's report, at which time more detailed information regarding the Police response to the Protest is likely to be publicly available.

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 ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



David Greig
Superintendent
New Zealand Police

17 May 2022

s.9(2)(a) OIA
s.9(2)(a) OIA

Tēnā koe s.9(2)(a) OIA

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 22 March 2022, in which you asked for information in relation to the protest at Parliament.

As you may be aware, the Independent Police Conduct Authority (IPCA) has commenced an independent investigation and review (Review) of the policing of the occupation on and around Parliament grounds in Wellington during February and March 2022 (Protest).

Details of the scope of the Review are available on the IPCA's website¹ and you will note this scope includes Police management of intelligence, planning and preparation including staff selection, and operational execution (including tactics used).

The IPCA anticipates the Review will be completed and reported on by 31 March 2023. Police recognise the importance of transparency in these matters and look forward to the release of the IPCA's report, at which time more detailed information regarding the Police response to the Protest is likely to be publicly available.

In the meantime, my response to each of your questions can be found below.

- *How much did the New Zealand Police spend in relation to resources at the Parliament protest? Could you please provide a breakdown in costs to the spending involved at the Parliament protest?*

As at 31 March 2022, Police had incurred actual costs totalling \$2.557m on Parliament protest. These costs cover expenditure incurred directly in response to the protest such as accommodation, food supplies, towing consumables, airfares and vehicles, venues and helicopter hire costs. It does not include any personnel costs of the staff assigned to this operation.

Please refer to Table 1 below for a breakdown of these costs.

¹ <https://www.ipca.govt.nz/Site/publications-and-media/2022-media-releases/2022-mar-24-investigation-review-occupation-parliament.aspx>

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

Table 1: Cost breakdown

Accommodation	\$1,337,942
Travel/Transport	\$672,346
Food	\$284,409
Equipment hired/purchased	\$186,321
External providers	\$52,793
Other	\$23,902
Total	\$2,557,713

- *How many police staff were undercover at the Parliament protest? What did the roles of the undercover police staff at the Parliament protest involve?*

No undercover officers were deployed at the protest, therefore this part of your request is refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist. A number of Police constabulary staff work in plain clothes however, for example, staff who work in the Criminal Investigation Branch, Field Intelligence Officers and some family harm staff. Some plain clothes officers were deployed to the protest, however the exact number was not recorded.

- *Throughout the course of the protest at Parliament, did the threat level rise, if so, when, and why?*

You clarified that you were referring to New Zealand's national terrorism threat level. I can advise that New Zealand's national terrorism threat level did not rise during this time. Information about the current level is publicly available here: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security-and-intelligence/counter-terrorism>

- *Were New Zealand Police aware of any protestors at the Parliament protest who were already on a police watchlist, if so, how many?*

Police does not maintain a watch list per se, but a number of individuals known to Police for extremist motivations and behaviours attended the occupation at Parliament. The number of individuals fluctuated over the period of occupation, but the total number is withheld under s6(c) where making the information available would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences.

- *How many complaints did New Zealand Police receive in total in relation to the protest at Parliament?*

On 11 April 2022, you clarified that you were interested in both complaints against Police and complaints about protestors.

As of 26 April 2022, Police has received 598 complaints relating to the Parliament protest. Of the 598 complaints, 148 related to Police inaction, typically wanting Police to do more

to remove protestors from Parliament grounds. The remainder are related to Police's use of force. Police is currently working with the IPCA to categorise each complaint before responding to individual complainants.

Please note that as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police proactively release 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 ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



David Greig
Superintendent
New Zealand Police