

30 May 2022

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

***Request for information***

Thank you for your request of 13 March 2022, in which you requested the following:

*"The information I require is in relation to the eviction of protestors from Parliament Grounds on Wednesday 2 March 2022.*

- 1. Do police always have to wear badge numbers?*
- 2. If yes, who gave the instruction that on Wednesday 2 March 2022 police evicting protestors from Parliament Grounds didn't need to?*
- 3. If not always, under which circumstances do they not have to wear badge numbers?*
- 4. How many police were deployed to evict the protestors from Parliament Grounds on Wednesday 2 March 2022?*
- 5. How many other government personnel were deployed to assist police in evicting protestors?*
- 6. From which department were the non-police officers from?*
- 7. the written authorisation / instruction given to the police for all and any action that they were to take around the eviction of protestors from Parliament Grounds on Wednesday 2 March 2022*

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 website<sup>1</sup> and you will note this scope includes Police planning and preparation of its response to the Protest. This includes staff selection, training, operational guidance, equipment and technology provided to officers who policed the Protest, Police command and control, decision-making processes, and operational execution (including tactics used and timeliness of tactics).

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.

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

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:

*7. the written authorisation / instruction given to the police for all and any action that they were to take around the eviction of protestors from Parliament Grounds on Wednesday 2 March 2022*

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.

We consider the following information may be released as indicated:

- 1. Do police always have to wear badge numbers?*
- 2. If yes, who gave the instruction that on Wednesday 2 March 2022 police evicting protestors from Parliament Grounds didn't need to?*
- 3. If not always, under which circumstances do they not have to wear badge numbers?*

The standard of dress for New Zealand Police is set out in Police Instructions. With regards to "badge numbers" the following guidance applied on 2 March 2022:

*Constables wearing uniform must wear detachable epaulettes on the outer most upper body garment (wear only one set of epaulettes at a time). The epaulettes must carry the employee's appropriate position level insignia and for senior sergeants and below also include their registered numbers. The registered number must be placed adjacent to the outer edge of the epaulette.*

Police acknowledges that during the course of an operation an officer's epaulettes may become obscured so the registered number would not be visible. For example, Police's public order protective equipment includes shoulder protectors that may cover the epaulettes when worn.

- 4. How many police were deployed to evict the protestors from Parliament Grounds on Wednesday 2 March 2022?*

Police deployed approximately 620 officers for the operation to restore order and access to the area around Parliament on 2 March. This includes staff in both front-line and support roles.

- 5. How many other government personnel were deployed to assist police in evicting protestors?*
- 6. From which department were the non-police officers from?*

The operation was carried out by Police and involved New Zealand Police staff only, which included Policing Support Units and the Police Negotiation Team.

Staff from other organisations were often in the vicinity; for example, units from Wellington Free Ambulance and Fire and Emergency New Zealand. However, these units were not deployed to "assist the Wellington police;" rather they were deployed to ensure the safety of all those present, including the protestors.

The IPCA anticipates the Review will be completed and reported on by 31 March 2023. Police recognises the importance of transparency in these matters and looks 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



David Greig  
Superintendent  
New Zealand Police

30 May 2022

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

***Request for information***

Thank you for your request, transferred to Police on 4 April 2022, in which you requested the following:

1. *For the operations from 8th February 2022 to March 3rd 2022 were there any agreements made between New Zealand Police and any other Police force outside New Zealand to assist NZ Police, including UN peacekeepers?*
2. *Are there any agreements made between New Zealand Police and any internal forces to assist the Police from 8th February 2022 to 3rd March 2022 such as NZDF Personnel, NZ Navy Personnel, NZ Airforce Personnel, and NZ SIS Personnel?*
3. *Can I have a breakdown of information of all New Zealand Police operations in relation to the Parliament grounds from 8th February 2022 to March 3rd 2022.*

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 website<sup>1</sup> 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 that the following information requested tends to go to the heart of the matters that are under investigation and review by the IPCA:

2. *Are there any agreements made between New Zealand Police and any internal forces to assist the Police from 8th February 2022 to 3rd March 2022 such as NZDF Personnel, NZ Navy Personnel, NZ Airforce Personnel, and NZ SIS Personnel?*

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.

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



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

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

1. *For the operations from 8th February 2022 to March 3rd 2022 were there any agreements made between New Zealand Police and any other Police force outside New Zealand to assist NZ Police, including UN peacekeepers?*

There were no agreements made between Police and any other police force outside New Zealand to assist Police in responding to the Protest.

3. *Can I have a breakdown of information of all New Zealand Police operations in relation to the Parliament grounds from 8th February 2022 to March 3rd 2022.*

On 7 April, Police advised that your request for "a breakdown" was not specified with due particularity and invited you to refine your request. You were also advised that if the request was interpreted as being for all information relating to Police operations in relation to the Protest it would likely be refused as an initial search indicated there would be thousands of emails within scope.

On 8 April you clarified your request to be for:

*all information on operations to do with Parliament Grounds Protest from 8th February 2022 to 3rd March 2022.*

Your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

The IPCA anticipates the Review will be completed and reported on by 31 March 2023. Police recognises the importance of transparency in these matters and looks 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



David Greig  
Superintendent  
New Zealand Police

24 May 2022

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

***Request for information***

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 14 March 2022, for information relating to the protests at Parliament. You requested the following:

*Why the people present dressed as police officers on March 2nd 2022, in Wellington outside Parliament, did not have police numbers on. These people were completely lacking these numbers. Some also had these numbers covered up. WHY?*

*Were all the people in police uniforms sworn in properly trained police officers? Did you employ and use any people to infiltrate the protest during the 23 days of the protest?*

*Why were some people with ankle bracelets allowed on Parliament grounds at the protest?*

*If there were known sex offenders present on the grounds as stated by the police why was this allowed or was this an untruth?*

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 website<sup>1</sup> and you will note this scope includes Police planning and preparation, and operational execution.

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> <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. [www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

*Why the people present dressed as police officers on March 2nd 2022, in Wellington outside Parliament, did not have police numbers on. These people were completely lacking these numbers. Some also had these numbers covered up. WHY?*

All Police employees deployed in the operation to clear protesters from the grounds of Parliament and surrounding areas on 2 March 2022 were in police uniform. The standard of dress for Police is set out in *Police Instructions*. With regards to “badge numbers” the following guidance applied on 2 March 2022:

*Constables wearing uniform must wear detachable epaulettes on the outer most upper body garment (wear only one set of epaulettes at a time). The epaulettes must carry the employee's appropriate position level insignia and for senior sergeants and below also include their registered numbers. The registered number must be placed adjacent to the outer edge of the epaulette.*

Police acknowledges that during the course of an operation an officer's epaulettes may become obscured so the registered number would not be visible. For example, Police's public order protective equipment includes shoulder protectors that may cover the epaulettes when worn.

*Were all the people in police uniforms sworn in properly trained police officers?*

Yes.

*Did you employ and use any people to infiltrate the protest during the 23 days of the protest?*

No.

*Why were some people with ankle bracelets allowed on Parliament grounds at the protest?*

*If there were known sex offenders present on the grounds as stated by the police why was this allowed or was this an untruth?*

I understand these questions relate in particular to the sex offenders referenced in the following article of 24 February: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/300524991/two-highrisk-sex-offenders-on-extended-monitoring-have-been-among-wellington-protesters>.

Police did not “allow” those individuals to be present, at that point all protesters on the grounds of Parliament were trespassing and Police's expectation was that they vacate the area.

While persons subject to electronic monitoring may be subject to restrictions on their movements as imposed by the New Zealand Parole Board, those restrictions would not necessarily prevent them from being able to access public spaces such as the areas surrounding Parliament.

The IPCA anticipates the Review will be completed and reported on by 31 March 2023. Police recognises the importance of transparency in these matters and looks 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Greig', is positioned above the printed name.

David Greig  
Superintendent  
New Zealand Police