


4 May 2022

s.9(2)(a) OIA

s.9(2)(a) OIA

Dear ***Request for information***

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 22 February 2022, for information relating to the protests 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 website<sup>1</sup> and you will note this scope includes Police planning and preparation including staff selection, equipment provided, and operational execution.

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 will be publicly available.

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

1. *Please provide information on how many police officers have resigned during the Wellington protest.*

A total of 43 constabulary staff resigned from New Zealand Police (Police) in the period 8 February – 2 March 2022 (inclusive).

Please note none of the 43 constabulary staff that resigned from Police in the above period worked at the protest in Wellington. Given the large size of the constabulary workforce, staff resignations and retirements occur as a matter of course.

2. *How many police officers have been sent to Wellington for the protest upto today (22 Feb 2022), and how many are rostered to goto Wellington over the next month from throughout NZ and where are they usually stationed, and how many police officers are in Wellington already.*

Between 9 February and 13 March 2022, 1802 Police staff were intermittently deployed to Wellington from outside of the Wellington District. Over this period staff were deployed to Wellington from all other Police districts, and were typically deployed for between three to

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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. Fax: 04 498 7400. [www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

seven days (excluding travel days). Please note this figure includes staff deployed from the Royal New Zealand Police College and Police National Headquarters.

Staff were rostered in contingents, with some contingent dates overlapping others.

In addition, 392 staff from Wellington District were intermittently deployed to the protest in frontline roles.

3. *Please provide information on other support units being provided to assist the Wellington police and parliament security, including special operations units and crowd control units and overseas police and/or special operatives assisting, including but not limited to UN staff.*

The operation to restore order and access to the area around Parliament was carried out by Police and involved NZ 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.

I can confirm that no “overseas police and/or special operatives” assisted Police responding to the protest.

4. *Please provide information on crowd control devices being deployed to assist the police in their operations against the Wellington protestors.*

In terms of this question, we have interpreted the word ‘device’ to mean any equipment made or adapted for crowd control. We have not included uniform, protective equipment (e.g. shields) or standard police tactical options (e.g. pepper spray) whose use is not crowd control specific.

Police equipment (other than that identified below) is not made or adapted for crowd control specifically. Police equipment is designed to protect our people from violent behaviour, and to incapacitate people behaving violently, and is used in general policing.

Police crowd control devices used at Parliament included loud hailers for communication and an LRAD device (Long-Range Acoustic Device).

We note the IPCA will be considering Police equipment and tactics and we look forward to any observations the IPCA may have regarding the use of equipment for crowd control.

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).

Yours sincerely

  
David Greig

Superintendent - Capability  
New Zealand Police

18 May 2022

s.9(2)(a) OIA

Dear s.9(2)(a) OIA

***Request for information***

Thank you for your request of 3 March 2022, in which you requested the following:

- 1. Were Police at the operation to clear Parliament grounds on 2 March 2022 required to wear badge numbers, were they required to be visible and have any instances of Police officers not displaying badge numbers been reported?*
- 2. If the Police were not required to show badge numbers why not, and who authorised that?*
- 3. Were Police at the operation to clear Parliament grounds required to wear body cams and record the entire proceedings?*
- 4. If Police were not required to record the proceedings why not, and who made this determination?*
- 5. I request all body cam and other camera footage relating to the start of the fire on Parliament grounds, and further request that it be available in a commonly used video protocol?*
- 6. Is it correct that the fire was started as a result of the Police tipping over a generator, accidentally or otherwise?*
- 7. What intelligence or information did Police have relating to the presence and likely intentions of Antifa?*

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 management of intelligence, command and control, and operational execution.

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 will be publicly available.

In the meantime, please see below the responses to your request for information.

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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>



1. Were Police at the operation to clear Parliament grounds on 2 March 2022 required to wear badge numbers, were they required to be visible and have any instances of Police officers not displaying badge numbers been reported?
2. If the Police were not required to show badge numbers why not, and who authorised that?

The standard of dress for New Zealand Police are 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.

As of 29 March 2022, Police had received two complaints that referred to the badge numbers of officers attending the Protest not being visible.

Police is currently reviewing all complaints received regarding the behaviour of police officers during the protest at Parliament, in conjunction with the Independent Police Conduct Authority (IPCA).

It is not possible at this stage to confirm whether the incidents you refer to will undergo further investigation following this review.

3. Were Police at the operation to clear Parliament grounds required to wear body cams and record the entire proceedings
4. If Police were not required to record the proceedings why not, and who made this determination?
5. I request all body cam and other camera footage relating to the start of the fire on Parliament grounds, and further request that it be available in a commonly used video protocol?

Police has not been approved to wear body worn cameras. Police continues to monitor the technology of body-worn cameras, and any potential benefits for the New Zealand policing environment, but at this time has no plans for their immediate introduction.

However, there were Police cameras present to record events for operational and evidential purposes, for example the Wellington District photography unit and the Eagle helicopter.

Police is currently undertaking a criminal investigation into activity that occurred at the Wellington protest on 2 March 2022. The camera footage including from Eagle has been taken as part of that active investigation. Therefore, your request is refused under section 6(c) of the OIA, as the making available of the information is likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences and the right to a fair trial.

6. Is it correct that the fire was started as a result of the Police tipping over a generator, accidentally or otherwise?

Police is currently undertaking a criminal investigation into activity that occurred at the Wellington protest on 2 March 2022. However, I can advise that Police has no information or footage to indicate Police staff were responsible for starting any fires.

All information Police holds in relation to this incident, including any video footage and assessments of possible causes, is part of that investigation and is therefore withheld under section 6(c) of the OIA, as the making available of the information is likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences and the right to a fair trial.

*7. What intelligence or information did Police have relating to the presence and likely intentions of Antifa?*

Police did not have any intelligence or information relating to the presence or likely intentions of Antifa. Your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

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

IR-01-22-6122

13 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 Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 3 March 2022, in which you asked for information regarding 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 website<sup>1</sup> and you will note this scope includes the powers Police used and operational execution.

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 will be publicly available.

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

*I wish to make an OIA request for the number of police arrested during the protest of parliament in February and March 2022.*

*In addition to the total number, I would specifically like to know how many police were arrested on 2 March 2022.*

I can confirm that no police employees were arrested in connection with the Protest between 8 February and 2 March 2022 inclusive.

*How many police were eye-gouged by members of the public?*

Police has no record of any police employees being eye-gouged by members of the public during the Protest.

*How many members of the public were eye-gouged by police?*

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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 has received complaints relating to a single alleged incident of eye gouging by a police employee during the Protest.

Police is currently reviewing all complaints received regarding the behaviour of police officers during the Protest, in conjunction with the IPCA.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

Kylie Schaare  
Acting Director – Integrity & Conduct  
New Zealand Police

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