

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Urgent request - reopening the OIA
Date: Thursday, 3 October 2024 at 2:40:06 PM New Zealand Daylight Time
From: Arne Larsen
To: Wendy McGuinness, [REDACTED]

From: Ministerial Services <Ministerial.Services@police.govt.nz>
Date: Thursday, 26 September 2024 at 11:10 AM
To: Wendy McGuinness <wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Urgent request - reopening the OIA

Kia ora Wendy,

Thank you for your email.

The letter of appointment you refer to in your email is not held by Police. I understand that this request was previously made with DPMC, and at the time, DPMC had consulted with Police regarding the information requested.

Commissioner Bush had retired from Police at the time of his appointment to COVID Strategic Operations Command Lead and as such Police was not involved in the process and do not hold any information about the appointment. The appointment of Commissioner Bush as COVID Strategic Operations Command Lead was administered by the Public Services Commission.

I can suggest that you could possibly ask the Public Services Commission if they hold the information you are seeking.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Advisor - Ministerial Services
Police National Headquarters

From: Wendy McGuinness <wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 8:50 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Arne Larsen <al@mcguinnessinstitute.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Urgent request - reopening the OIA
Importance: High

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Mōrena [REDACTED]

DPMC have informed me that they do not have a copy of the letter that appointed Mike Bush as operational commander for the COVID-19 response. We understand it was signed by the Prime Minister and was dated 19 March 2020. We know it must exist and have been advised by someone in-the-know that it existed and that it was dated 19 March. In our book I have said:

On 19 March 2020, the Prime Minister writes to the State Sector Leadership Team establishing a COVID-19 Operations Command Centre (OCC) with Mike Bush as leader, director and coordinator of this group from 20 March.

Can you see if you can find the letter, and at the very least confirm its existence – ideally today. Happy to chat, my mobile is 021 781 200.

We are holding off pushing the print button for the book on this one point.

Thank you in advance,

Wendy

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 5 September 2024 at 10:57 AM
To: Wendy McGuinness <wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org>
Subject: RE: OIA request from New Zealand Police online form

Kia ora Wendy,

Thank you for making Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request on 30 August 2024.

We attempted to transfer your request in full to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) as the information to which your request relates is not held by us but is believed to be held by and more closely related to the functions of DPMC. In these circumstances, we are required by section 14 of the OIA to transfer your request.

We have been advised by DPMC that they have also received a similar request from you, and they will be responding to you directly. Police is, therefore, closing your request.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Advisor - Ministerial Services
Police National Headquarters

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 August 2024 3:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: OIA request from New Zealand Police online form

Submitted on Fri, 30/08/2024 - 3:22 pm

Submitted by: Web Admin [webadmin]

Submitted values are:

Contact information

District or Police National Headquarters (PNHQ)
Police National Headquarters

First name

Wendy

Middle name(s)

Louise

Family name

McGuinness

Contact Phone Number (daytime)

[REDACTED]

Information you are requesting

What information do you require?

Kia ora,

Our OIA 2024/29: Request for all reports provided to the Quin between 1 January 2020 and 30 June 2020 from the New Zealand Police

Can you provide all the reports that were provided to the Quin when Mike Bush was Strategic Operations Command Lead? We understand the Quin was disestablished on the 30 June 2020. These papers may be with New Zealand Police, but we expect they might have moved across to DPMC with the creation of the COVID-19 Group on 1 July 2020. For this reason, we have also made an OIA request to the New Zealand Police. Our request includes copies of all reports, briefing and documents in PDF, such as:

- Statistics
- Strategy (including any Strategic Insight reports)
- Scanning documents
- Intelligence Summary (INTSUM)
- Logistic documents
- And anything else that was provided.

We would appreciate a quick response as we are in the process of completing a book on New Zealand's response. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Wendy

Response delivery

Preferred delivery of Police's response

email

Email

wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org

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