

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Urgent request - reopening the OIA  
**Date:** Thursday, 26 September 2024 at 11:49:29 PM New Zealand Standard Time  
**From:** Wendy McGuinness  
**To:** Ministerial Services  
**CC:** Arne Larsen  
**Attachments:** image001.png, image002.png, image003.png

Mörena [REDACTED]

Sorry, but I don't think the dates align. I have just spent an hour trying to work out what happened when.

From our research, the last day Commissioner Bush was working for Police was 2 April 2020. Whereas the COVID Strategic Operations Command Lead appointment occurred before the 23 March 2020.

Can you provide more information. For example, did Commissioner Bush retire early to take up the role on-or-around the 19<sup>th</sup> March – or did he undertake both roles up until the 2 April. The latter is implied in the Wikipedia entry, copied below ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike\\_Bush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Bush)):

The [COVID-19 pandemic reached New Zealand](#) at the end of Bush's tenure as Police Cor  
Bush was appointed to lead the operational arm of the COVID-19 All-of-Government Resp  
Group on 23 March 2020<sup>[8]</sup> and continued to hold this role after retiring from the New Zeal  
in April 2020.<sup>[9][10]</sup>

Thank you in advance. Any help gratefully received.

Best wishes, Wendy

A few links and images:

**A: Commissioner Bush was definitely the lead: 23 March**

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/coronavirus/120485709/coronavirus-top-cop-mike-bush-to-lead-new-taskforce-says-police-will-enforce-new-rules>

## Coronavirus: Top cop Mike Bush to lead new taskforce, says police will enforce new rules

Henry Cooke

March 23, 2020 · 08:24am

Share

The appointment letter we are looking for is dated 19 March 2020, about 12 days before hand. Based on this I would have expected some form of appointment letter went to Police.

**B: Commissioner Bush's last day was 2 April**

See <https://www.1news.co.nz/2020/04/02/mike-bush-hangs-up-blue-uniform-on-last-day-as-police-commissioner/>

## Mike Bush

🌐 Add languages ▼

Article Talk

Read Edit View history Tools ▼

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Michael Dennis Bush** CNZM is a retired New Zealand police officer. He served as the New Zealand Commissioner of Police from April 2014 until April 2020.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Career [ edit ]

Bush joined the New Zealand Police in 1978, working at both CIB and Frontline Policing. As he progressed through the ranks he was appointed to senior roles, including Liaison Officer for South East Asia. This position was held by Bush at the time of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. He was the first New Zealand official on the scene of this incident, arriving on Phuket to assist with relief. In the 2006 New Year Honours, he was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for his relief work.<sup>[3]</sup> He was also awarded the New Zealand Special Service Medal (Asian Tsunami) recognising this work.<sup>[4]</sup>

Upon appointment to the role of Commissioner of Police in 2014, Bush made several changes focused on operational models and culture. These included the



**From:** [REDACTED]

**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

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the New Zealand Police Network. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and are assured that the content is safe.

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](mailto: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](mailto:wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org)

---

WARNING

The information contained in this email message is intended for the addressee only and may contain privileged information. It may also be subject to the provisions of section 50 of the Policing Act 2008, which creates an offence to have unlawful possession of Police property. If you are not the intended recipient of this message or have received this message in error, you must not peruse, use, distribute or copy this message or any of its contents. Also note, the views expressed in this message may not necessarily reflect those of the New Zealand Police. If you have received this message in error, please email or telephone the sender immediately