



25 November 2021

Tēnā koe

On 28 October 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Regarding cameras which are on, or surveil outdoor public spaces:*
  - *The location details (address, or latitude and longitude) of all cameras your organisation has which are on, or surveil outdoor public spaces. Could this please be supplied in a spreadsheet.*
  - *The purpose of the cameras - e.g. traffic flow/security/weather conditions*
  - *How long is footage is stored for?*
  - *Are the cameras capturing audio?*
  - *If so, roughly how many*
  - *Are any cameras capable of facial recognition?*
  - *If so, roughly how many, is this capability being used and what is it being used for*
  - *Are any cameras capable of license plate recognition?*
  - *If so, roughly how many, is this capability being used and what is it being used for.*
  - *Who are they monitored by? If they are monitored by an organisation other than yourselves, please name the organisation and supply details of the arrangement you have with them.*
  - *Do any other organisations have access to the cameras?*
  - *If so, please name the organisation, the reason they have access and what functionality the access gives them e.g. move cameras*
  - *Have other organisations requested footage in 2020 & 2021?*
  - *If so, please name the organisations and the reasons footage was requested*
  - *Have you supplied footage to any organisations?*
  - *If so, please name the organisations and the reasons the footage was supplied, and how many times it was supplied in 2020 & 2021*
  - *Are there cameras in public spaces your organisation owns/manages which are owned by organisations such as local business associations?*

- *If so, please list the organisations, and indicate what arrangements you have for who has access to the cameras/footage and how it is used.*

For the sake of clarity, I will answer your questions in turn.

- *The location details (address, or latitude and longitude) of all cameras your organisation has which are on, or surveil outdoor public spaces. Could this please be supplied in a spreadsheet.*

I have decided not to provide you with the details of the locations of the cameras in use because providing this information could compromise security as the information may be used to target the Ministry. As such, this information is withheld under section 6(c) of the Act where making that information available would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences.

- *The purpose of the cameras – e.g. traffic flow/security/weather conditions*

The purpose of the cameras is for security – for the prevention and detection of offences such as anti-social behaviour, assaults or threats.

- *How long is footage is stored for?*

Generally, footage from cameras is stored for 60 days, although some camera servers may hold footage for up to 90 days depending on their capacity and size.

- *Are the cameras capturing audio? If so, roughly how many. Are any cameras capable of facial recognition? If so, roughly how many, is this capability being used and what is it being used for.*

Cameras do not record audio, nor do they contain facial recognition systems or technology.

- *Are any cameras capable of license plate recognition? If so, roughly how many, is this capability being used and what is it being used for?*

One of the Ministry's recently rebuilt sites does contain a camera with licence plate recognition technology. This is only to enable the site's secure carpark gates to automatically open and close for fleet vehicles that have their registration numbers recorded in the licence plate recognition system.

- *Who are they monitored by? If they are monitored by an organisation other than yourselves, please name the organisation and supply details of the arrangement you have with them.*

Our general camera footage can be checked by Ministry employees and our contractor Allied, who provide guard services at our sites, intermittently as and when it may be required. The footage is not actively monitored or watched in real time by any staff members, contractors or other organisations.

- *Do any other organisations have access to the cameras? If so, please name the organisation, the reason they have access and what functionality the access gives them e.g. move cameras.*

Other organisations are able to access the cameras. Our security contractor, ADT, services and maintains our cameras. This may require ADT technicians to service or update servers or cameras and move them for reasons such as site refits, renovations or relocations.

- *Have other organisations requested footage in 2020 & 2021? If so, please name the organisations and the reasons footage was requested?*

Other organisations may have requested camera footage from the Ministry's sites within the past two years. However, I am unable to provide you with the names of these organisations and the reason requested, as this is not centrally recorded given that requests are managed by individual regions or sites. As such, this section is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

- *Have you supplied footage to any organisations? If so, please name the organisations and the reasons the footage was supplied, and how many times it was supplied in 2020 & 2021.*

The Ministry has supplied camera footage to New Zealand Police following incidents where the Ministry has required their assistance.

However, I am not able to provide you with the number of times this information was supplied as this information is also not centrally recorded as requests are managed by individual regions or sites. As such, this information is refused under section 18(f) as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

- *Are there cameras in public spaces your organisation owns/manages which are owned by organisations such as local business associations? If so, please list the organisations, and indicate what arrangements you have for who has access to the cameras/footage and how it is used.*

There are no cameras in public spaces the Ministry manages that are owned by other organisations. As such, this section of your request is refused under 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



pp.

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