



11 February 2022

Tēnā koe

On 30 December 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *How much has been spent on the installation of CCTV cameras in the past five years, broken down by year?*
2. *What is the cost to run CCTV cameras over a 12 month period? Please specify the dates of the period in your response. If the cost relates to indoor and outdoor cameras please specify the number of indoor versus outdoor cameras.*
3. *Were any outdoor cameras vandalised in 2021? If so, please list how many times this happened.*
4. *If outdoor cameras were installed for crime prevention, security, or public safety, can you please include any the number of reported crimes in the year prior to camera installation, and the number of reported crimes in 2021. For ease of response, this can relate to an area rather than the viewport of specific cameras e.g. CBD.*
5. *Can you please list the number of times camera footage was used in solving a crime in 2021?*
6. *Does your organisation regularly review whether CCTV cameras are performing their objective? If so, please provide the results of the most recent review.*
7. *Does your organisation have any policy regarding CCTV in place, which covers any of the following - If so, please provide a copy, or link to it:*
  - a. *Objectives of cameras*
  - b. *Data protection*
  - c. *Sharing of footage*

*d. Vetting of volunteers viewing footage*

For the sake of clarity, I will provide a response to your questions in turn. Some questions have been grouped together.

1. *How much has been spent on the installation of CCTV cameras in the past five years, broken down by year?*
2. *What is the cost to run CCTV cameras over a 12 month period? Please specify the dates of the period in your response. If the cost relates to indoor and outdoor cameras please specify the number of indoor versus outdoor cameras.*

In order to provide information about the amount spent on CCTV cameras in the manner requested, the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. This is because this financial information for CCTV sits within our wider on-site security budget. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your requests given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

3. *Were any outdoor cameras vandalised in 2021? If so, please list how many times this happened.*
4. *If outdoor cameras were installed for crime prevention, security, or public safety, can you please include any the number of reported crimes in the year prior to camera installation, and the number of reported crimes in 2021. For ease of response, this can relate to an area rather than the viewport of specific cameras e.g. CBD.*
5. *Can you please list the number of times camera footage was used in solving a crime in 2021?*

I am unable to provide you with information about outdoor camera vandalism and the use of camera footage in relation to crime prevention and investigation as it is not centrally recorded, given that cameras are managed by individual regions or sites. As such, this part of your request is also refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial manual collation or research. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

6. *Does your organisation regularly review whether CCTV cameras are performing their objective? If so, please provide the results of the most recent review.*

The Ministry is in the process of completing a Privacy Human Rights and Ethics Assessment (PHRaE) on the use of CCTV cameras. As this is still in progress, your request for the results of the most recent review is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as this information does not currently exist.

7. *Does your organisation have any policy regarding CCTV in place, which covers any of the following - If so, please provide a copy, or link to it:*

- a. *Objectives of cameras*
- b. *Data protection*
- c. *Sharing of footage*
- d. *Vetting of volunteers viewing footage*

Please find attached **Appendix One**, providing a copy of the Ministry's CCTV Policy.

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 and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments 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



Mark Painter  
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**Health Safety and Security**