



19 September 2011

Thomas Beagle
P O Box 5641
Lambton Quay
WELLINGTON 6145

Dear Mr Beagle

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Your letter of 30 August 2011 to the Commissioner of Police, requesting information about the legality of people taking photos or video of police at work, has been referred to Police's Legal Services team for response. In your letter, you ask two substantive questions, answers to which are set out below:

- *Is it against the law in New Zealand to take photos or video of the police at work? (Assuming that the taking of such photos or video doesn't obstruct the police in the performance of their duties)*

No, not if the photos or video of police at work are taken in a public place, or with the landowner's consent if on private property.

- *Have members of the NZ police received instruction about the legality or otherwise of the public videoing or photographing them?*

To the best of our knowledge, no.

Because we do not hold policies, guidelines or training materials concerning this issue, it follows we are not in a position to provide you with any copies of such documents.

While we have endeavoured to provide as fulsome a response as possible, it remains your right to complain to the Office of the Ombudsmen, and seek an investigation and review of my handling of your request.

Respectfully

M B Webb
Acting National Manager: Legal

Safer Communities Together

POLICE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

180 Molesworth Street, PO Box 3017, DX SX11149, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
Telephone: (04) 474 9499 Facsimile: (04) 498 7400 www.police.govt.nz