



07/c220108/8

3 October 2012

Mr Thomas Beagle  
P.O. Box 5641  
Lambton Quay  
WELLINGTON 6145

Dear Mr Beagle

### **Request for Information - Official Information Act 1982**

I refer to your letter dated 19 August 2012 in which you requested information in relation to Automated Number Plate Recognition technology (ANPR) and the storage of data.

Specifically, you requested Police *clarify whether the ANPR data is being kept or not. Furthermore, if this data is being kept, is it the intention to use it to track vehicles as indicated by Superintendent Rose.*

There are currently five ANPR equipped vehicles operating in New Zealand. Two of those vehicles are vans, and the remaining three are marked patrol cars.

All three patrol cars and one of the vans have the capacity to store information for up to a two or three day period depending upon operational use. In general, the information is not stored for any longer than a shift period which can vary from an eight hour to a ten hour shift.

One of the vans has a system known as BOSS (Back Office Software System) and this system has the capability to store information for a longer period as it has a greater storage capacity. Initially, information captured by this system was held for up to two months, which appears to have been the default setting. Police did not use the information for any other purpose and it was not accessible to Police staff, other than the ANPR operators. The BOSS system settings have recently been amended, and the information is now only retained for a maximum of 48 hours.

Police considers that with so few cameras, the technology cannot be used to "track" vehicles. In any event, Police cannot track vehicles other than in accordance with the Search and Surveillance Act 2012.

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**POLICE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

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Police are consulting with the Privacy Commission regarding the storage and use of information captured by ANPR. A post evaluation report is being prepared which will address the issue regarding the storage of information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CG', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Carey Griffiths  
Superintendent  
National Manager Road Policing