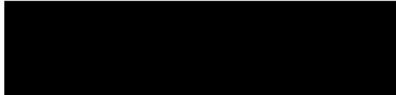


19 November 2021

IR-01-21-33873



Dear 

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your email dated 15 November 2021 requesting information relating to the use of the form titled 'Consent to Assume Online Identity'. I have considered your request in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). I have responded to each of your questions below.

- 1 *How many occasions have police taken over online identities using the "Consent to Assume Online Internet Identity" in the past five years? I would like a breakdown by year.*

Police do not hold statistics as to the use of this form and as such, your request is refused pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

- 2 *What approval process is required before seeking such consent (e.g. does it require sign-off from a manager, and if so, at what level?) If there is a formal approval process, I would like a copy.*

As this process is conducted by way of consent, there is no specific approval process in force that governs the use of this document. In essence, the document is one method by which Police can record actions undertaken through consent as it relates to online accounts. Alternatively, Police can record interactions with individuals in their notebooks and in written statements provided by individuals to achieve the same outcome.

- 3 *A copy of any relevant police manual chapter (or other guidance) for this process).*

I have attached an excerpt from the Police internal Intranet page relating to the Police Online Child Exploitation across New Zealand (OCEANZ) team. The form is accessible on this intranet page and is accompanied with a brief explanatory paragraph. I have withheld some information from this document on the basis

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. www.police.govt.nz

that its release would prejudice the maintenance of the law, pursuant to section 6(c) of the OIA.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my response to your request.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Mills
Detective Inspector
Police National Headquarters




OCEANZ

The Online Child Exploitation across New Zealand (OCEANZ) is a National criminal investigation group based at PNHQ.

It was formed in 2009 in response to an increase in internet-based crime. It is part of the Virtual Global taskforce - an international partnership, to help protect children from online abuse and other forms of transnational child sexual exploitation.

OCEANZ is staffed by a Detective Sergeant, six Detectives and a Victim Identification investigator. The team work closely with internal government agencies such as the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and the NZ Customs Service as well as overseas law enforcement agencies.

 We also receive referrals from overseas law enforcement agencies about New Zealand-based suspects believed to have committed online offences.

How we can help

Advice - We can provide operational advice, leadership, support and guidance to police staff, other agencies and jurisdictions, in relation to online child exploitation investigations.

Contacts – We have contacts with overseas law enforcement agencies that we can use on your behalf in some investigations.

Account takeovers – We can help with covert account takeovers. If you have apprehended a suspect involved in supplying or trading child exploitation material and they give you their social media or applications login details we can try to apprehend their associates. Suspects are often happy to give their login details once caught and this should be considered after an interview if appropriate. See authorised account takeover form.



| Consent for takeover.doc

178.5 KB

[REDACTED]

General Intel – We are always interested in any general intelligence police colleagues have in relation to people trying to exploit and groom children online.

Contact us via email: oceanz@police.govt.nz

Last modified: 16/09/2021