

01 December 2021

Kia ora

### **Location and access to Wellington City Council cameras**

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 28 October 2021. You requested the following information:

- 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 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.

Wellington City Council has granted your request for information. Attached are the spreadsheets with the location of cameras which monitor outdoor areas. The locations of our CCTV cameras can be found on our [website](#) in both list and map form as well as on the [Pōneke Promise website](#).

### **Location and purpose of cameras**

- **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 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.**

The branches of cameras that City Council has access to are:

- City Safety
- Security
- Traffic
- Parking

Several of our security cameras are indoors but face outside. We have not interpreted these to “surveil outdoor public spaces”, however if you would also like to know the location details of these, please advise.

Wellington City Council operates closed circuit television surveillance cameras which are monitored by trained staff who work with Police, outreach services and other partners to ensure a speedy and appropriate response.

The CCTV system helps target and prevent crime and public disorder, ensure efficient responses, and increase public safety. This CCTV surveillance system is a Council-led initiative and is strongly supported through our partnership with the Wellington Central Police. All monitoring and use of footage is carried out in accordance with the Privacy Act.

There are 79 cameras in total in our City Safety network monitored by CCTV operators and NZ Police. Of these, 49 are City Safety owned and we have access to an additional 30 cameras. Footage is stored for between 26 – 30 days.

These cameras do not capture audio, they are capable of facial and licence plate recognition, however this capability is not active, and we have no intention for it to be used.

WCC also has access to cameras for the purpose of parking monitoring. Parking cameras have licence plate recognition capability. We have not interpreted these to “surveil outdoor public spaces” however if you require these details as well, please advise.

There are an additional 62 cameras for the primary intention of traffic movement monitoring. A spreadsheet of the traffic camera locations is attached.

#### **Access to camera footage**

- **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.**

City Safety cameras are monitored by WCC staff and Wellington Police. Wellington Police can control the cameras, but WCC operators have priority access and are able to override any other control. Recon Security, our Contracted Security Company, monitor our security cameras.

All matters relating to crime or criminal activity need to be requested through the NZ Police. Matters relating to insurance or legal matters can be requested by insurance companies or attorneys. Requests can come to us directly through [the WCC website](#) but are dealt with on an individual basis.

Most requests from organisations are from NZ Police for the purpose of assisting in an investigation. Insurers and lawyers also request footage to assist with insurance claims and court/tribunal cases. We need to consider the privacy of other individuals who may appear in the footage, which is why we generally provide footage directly to a relevant agency, rather than to a member of public.

We have received 388 requests for footage this year (as at 25 November). We started a new system for recording requests in January 2021, as such the below reflects requests only for this year. There were 253 total requests for 2020, however we are unable to break this down by requester.

Please note that the below is the number of requests, not the number we provided. In most cases, we can provide the footage if it has been requested within around 28 days of the incident. However once requests have been completed, they are marked as ‘closed’, which is the same status as are those we are unable to respond to. To confirm the number provided we would need to access each request individually and look up the outcome. If you still require this information, please advise.

A breakdown of request by organisation is provided below for the period 01 January 2021 – 25 November 2021.

<b>Organisation type</b>	<b>Number of requests</b>
Government	1
Insurer	9
Lawyer	5
Public	16
NZ Police	300
Internal WCC, WCC Venue or Council Controlled Organisation *	56
Other	1

\*We are unable to confirm the number which are for ‘outdoor public spaces’, some of these will be for indoor spaces such as libraries or pools. Internal requests may also be for staff swipe card records, rather than camera footage, as these requests are logged in the same system.

There are no cameras in public spaces we manage which are owned by organisations such as local business associations. We have partnered with Tawa Business Improvement District, where they paid for the cameras, but we own and manage them.

**Right of review**

If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note, we may proactively release our response to your request with your personal information removed.

Thank you again for your request, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Claudia Holgate  
**Senior Advisor, Official Information**