

New Zealand Police is working with ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) providers to ensure that our use of these platforms is safe. All staff must ensure their use of ANPR information is above reproach, and be aware that there are active court cases where the use of ANPR evidence is being challenged. Here are some reminders:

- ▶ You must only access and use ANPR systems if you have a **legitimate investigative reason** required for the execution of your duties. Access and use is logged and audited.
- ▶ **ANPR platforms, such as Auror and Safer Cities vGRID, are provided by third parties and are not part of the Police Enterprise system** and information in these systems may be visible to external parties such as retailers, so consider what information you enter. Any sensitive information must only be entered into the corresponding NIA or IMT file. You must not enter confidential details about a live operation or a suspected offender into a third party ANPR system.
- ▶ Searches for ANPR information require a **file number reference** to inform audits and ensure requests are lawful. This must be either the NIA/DOCLOC file number in the format xxxxxx/xxxx or the event number (e.g. CARD Pxxxxxxx). **An officer QID, offence code, number plate, operation names or any other text are not acceptable entries for this field.**
- ▶ **Vehicle tracking ('active alerts')** can only be initiated in the following situations:

Category	Criteria	Level of authorisation required
s46 Search and Surveillance Act 2012 (surveillance device warrant)	Authorising Officer confirms that a valid surveillance device warrant is in existence for the vehicle	Written approval from Senior Sergeant or above, for a period as specified in the warrant
s48 Search and Surveillance Act 2012 (use of surveillance device without warrant in emergency or urgency)	Authorising Officer confirms that the s48 criteria has been met	Written approval from Detective Inspector or above, for a maximum of 48 hours
Where there is a need to prevent or lessen a serious threat to someone's life or a serious threat to public health or public safety.	Reasonable belief that a serious risk to life or safety of any person or a serious threat to public health or public safety exists (and no criminal offence is suspected)	Written or verbal approval from Inspector or above. Verbal approval to be documented in writing prior to completion of shift.

You must not use s48 emergency provisions just because a warrant has not been sought yet – there is a very high threshold for surveillance under s48 and the legislative criteria must be met. Officers authorising the use of vehicle tracking must be sure that the planned surveillance is lawful.

- ▶ **Frequently repeated and ongoing retrospective ANPR searches** may be deemed a 'search' for the purposes of the NZ Bill of Rights Act 1990. If you need to make ongoing and repeated ANPR requests for the same number plate, consider applying for a tracking device warrant or production order. The more search requests made for the same vehicle, the higher the likelihood that any operational outcomes will be challenged in court.
- ▶ **Vehicles that are not stolen** must not be marked as stolen in NIA just to trigger automated hits in any ANPR system.
- ▶ A **training course** for the use of ANPR is currently being developed. When that becomes available in 2025, only users who have completed the training course will be permitted access to ANPR systems.