

8 July 2019

Mr Michael Reddell
mhreddell@gmail.com

REF: IR-01-19-14324

Dear Mr Reddell

Thank you for your patience. Further to my letter of 27 May I am now in a position to respond to your request for:

1. *The recent agreement (Letter of Friendship and signed between the Guangzhou bureau of public security and the Auckland Police district);*
2. *Any advice on the above to the Minister and/or his office;*
3. *Any consultation on the above with other Government agencies; and*
4. *Any internal position papers evaluating the possibility of this agreement.*

Copies of the Letter of Friendship and Co-operation (the Letter) in English and Chinese are attached.

The information you seek relating to advice to the Minister is declined pursuant to section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the information does not exist.

New Zealand Police consulted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) on the wording of the Letter. MFAT's advice was marked "In Confidence". We decline to provide this in reliance on sections 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982. You can view the wording of these sections at:

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1982/0156/latest/DLM64785.html?src=qs>

There is no formal 'position paper' in existence evaluating the possibility or the 'pros and cons' of the Letter. However the Police position is that 2019 will mark the 30th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Guangzhou and Auckland – Auckland's longest standing and most successful sub-national partnership in China.

This relationship has been significantly strengthened as a result of the Tripartite Economic Alliance that was signed in 2014 between Auckland, Guangzhou and Los Angeles. The relationship between the cities goes back to the time of the gold rush in New Zealand, when many Chinese came across to New Zealand with a significant number finally settling in Auckland. Latest statistics indicating that up to one in three greater Aucklanders are likely to identify as Asian by 2038. Close transport connections (twice daily direct flights between the cities), the immense trade and significant crime connections make the relationship between Guangzhou and Auckland crucial to both cities. Other areas Police would benefit

Police National Headquarters

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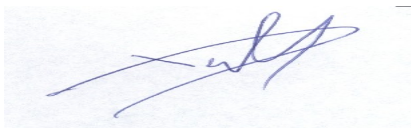
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from this relationship include, training, narcotics and economic crime investigations.

In summary this is an extension to the sister city relationship. With the proposed growth in the Asian population in Tamaki Makaurau over the next two decades this letter of friendship will enhance the relationship and benefit both Guangzhou Public Security Bureau and Tamaki Makaurau Police as it will present opportunities for each of us to learn from our colleagues.

If you are dissatisfied with our response you have the right to have it reviewed by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Housley', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Senior Sergeant Paul Housley

Waitematā District Case Management Coordinator

Waitematā District Official Information Act & Privacy Act Coordinator