



12 February 2019

[Redacted]

Reference: OIA-2018/19-0380

Dear [Redacted]

Official Information Act request for a list of draft media statements for the Prime Minister to use in significant events or situations

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 14 January 2019. You requested:

...I am looking for a list of prepared or draft media statements that can be used in certain significant events or situations.

For example, is there a document that is a draft of a statement that the prime minister can use in the event that the Queen dies.

Or another example may be a draft statement about a terror event in NZ.

Under OIA I am requesting a list of all prepared media statements for significant world events that the prime minister can use.

I am only looking for a list of document names or event names, not the full documents....

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) does not hold a list of all media statements prepared for the Prime Minister for significant events or situations as requested. Consequently, I have decided to refuse your request under section 18(e) because the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Further, 'significant events or situations' are difficult terms to define and can often include matters that are unpredictable in terms of their nature, scale and timing. Therefore, it is likely that material will be prepared at the time, when the circumstances of a particular event start to emerge. Information prepared for the Prime Minister to use in response to relevant events is also likely to be generated in confidence. The Prime Minister may also receive advice for significant events from agencies other than DPMC.

You may be interested to know that the Cabinet Office, in its role supporting the Prime Minister as the Sovereign's principal New Zealand advisor, will lead the formal response to the death of the Queen and the transition to a new Sovereign. You may be interested to read an earlier response from DPMC on this subject on the FYI website at: <https://fyi.org.nz/request/5574-protocols-and-procedures-on-the-death-of-the-queen>.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Finally, for your information a copy of this letter will be published on DPMC's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward
Executive Director, Strategy, Governance and Engagement Group