



24 March 2021



Ref: OIA-2020/21-0344

Dear 

Official Information Act request relating to IAP2 and community hui

I refer to your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 2 February 2021. You asked:

“...RNZ requests DPMC provides evidence it used IAP2 prior to the first hui on Jan 31, to design the hui consultation; this by way of documentation, such as a record of internal emails, correspondence or reports, or similar, that demonstrate DPMC used IAP2 and in what way”

I note the time limits for responding to your request were extended by 20 working days, to allow for further consultation before a decision could be made on your request. Following this, I am now in a position to respond.

As you will be aware, the Government has accepted the findings of the Report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain on 15 March 2019 (the Royal Commission report) and agreed in principle to the 44 recommendations. The Government is now considering how best to deliver on the recommendations' intents and wants to hear from communities to help shape its response.

To seek this input, the Government has undertaken over 30 community hui in January and February 2021 in relation to the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission's report. This was an initial process of engagement, outreach and dialogue between the Government and Muslim communities, and ethnic and faith communities.

Broadly, these initial hui were to:

- Listen to reactions around the Royal Commission's report and answer questions;
- Understand the key priority issues for communities;
- Discuss matters related to the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCOI), including the initiatives announced during the immediate response; and
- Begin a dialogue with communities about how they wish to engage and be involved in the implementation work programme.

I note the principles of the International Association for Public Participation *IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum* (IAP2) include a spectrum from “informing” communities about decisions to “empowering” communities to make decisions. In the all-of-Government response to the RCOI, government agencies have coordinated and worked together to consult with and involve communities in a range of ways discussed below.

Ahead of the public release of the Royal Commission's report, DPMC and other agency officials held a series of meetings and engagements with community members to discuss the process of the release of the report, to understand community needs and aspirations for the Government's response, and to understand how community members wanted to be engaged by the Government in the future. These engagements also sought to begin the important

process of building effective and meaningful relationships between government agencies and communities for the process going forward.

To provide all evidence connected to the internal and inter-agency written and verbal discussions regarding this would require substantial collation and research. I have therefore decided to refuse this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act. With regard to material held by DPMC demonstrating consultation within the community, DPMC needs to balance transparency with protecting the safety of those consulted with (both verbally and by email) in this matter. In so far as discussion with members of the community relates to your request, I have therefore decided to withhold this material in full under the following sections of the Act:

- section 6(d), to maintain the safety of any person;
- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals;
- section 9(2)(ba)(i), to protect the supply of similar information in the future;
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials; and
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

I will instead summarise this information in accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the Act as below.

The feedback from these discussions fed into the planning and design of the hui in January and February 2021, including the hiring of an independent facilitator at the request of communities. The design of the regional hui for Muslim communities from 31 January 2021 also included sessions for members of all Muslim communities, as well as specific sessions to provide safe spaces for Muslim women and Muslim young people to participate. This aspect of the hui design was based directly on feedback and suggestions from the affected whānau and survivor communities in Christchurch who are at the centre of the Government's response.

DPMC and other agency officials consulted with community members on the timing of the January/February hui in January 2021, which led to the programme being significantly modified. DPMC officials also liaised with community members regarding the design of materials provided at the hui. I can advise that the Government is committed to continuing to use the principles of IAP2 in its approach to community engagements in the future. If you have not already seen it, you may be interested to read *Report on community hui held in response to the Royal Commission into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019*, which is available online at: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/royal-commission-inquiry-terrorist-attack-christchurch-masjidain-0>.

For completeness, please note you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response 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



Tony Lynch
**Deputy Chief Executive
National Security Group**