



Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of (Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern), Prime Minister:

Christchurch Call Unit

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Christchurch Call Unit

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction codes:

- Section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand; and
- Section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals.



Briefing

CHRISTCHURCH CALL UNIT


To: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern Prime Minister			
Date	31/08/2021	Priority	Routine
Deadline	10/09/2021	Briefing Number	DPMC-2021/22-240

Purpose

This note updates you on work undertaken by DPMC to support you in your leadership of the Christchurch Call since MFAT transferred its accountability as lead agency. It notes the opportunities presented by New Zealand's leadership role in establishing the Call.

Recommendations

It is recommended that you **note** the contents of this report.

<p>s9(2)(a)</p>  <p>Paul Ash Christchurch Call Unit</p> <p>31/8/21</p>	<p>(Rt) Hon Jacinda Ardern Prime Minister</p> <p>...../...../.....</p>
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Contact for telephone discussion if required:

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Paul Ash	Coordinator, Christchurch Call Unit	s9(2)(a)	✓

Minister's office comments:

- Noted
- Seen
- Approved
- Needs change
- Withdrawn
- Not seen by Minister
- Overtaken by events
- Referred to

Proactively Released

CHRISTCHURCH CALL UNIT

Purpose

1. This note updates you on work undertaken by DPMC to support you in your leadership of the Christchurch Call since MFAT transferred its accountability as lead agency. It notes the opportunities presented by New Zealand's leadership role in establishing the Call.

Background

2. The Christchurch Call is emerging as an initiative of global significance. This is because it focuses on a pervasive global problem and takes an innovative approach to building a multi-stakeholder community with a shared commitment to working together to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online. The Call's global significance means its ongoing success is both a government priority and important to our international standing.
3. New Zealand's leadership in establishing the Call Community and its continuing work to demonstrate its value and potential has resulted in an opportunity for New Zealand to exercise a degree of global leadership on wider digital and tech issues beyond the specific scope of the Call.
4. As you know, the Christchurch Call Unit (the Unit) was established within DPMC immediately prior to the Second Anniversary Summit. It is responsible for supporting you to deliver both on New Zealand's commitments in relation to the Call and in its wider global role of shaping the norms required to fully realise the potential of the internet as a positive force for good.
5. The Unit operates in a joint venture with MFAT and continues to work closely with it to progress the Christchurch Call work programme.
6. The Unit will work with MFAT to provide you with advice on matters within the scope of and related to the Christchurch Call. You will also continue to receive advice from relevant PAG Advisors as required.

Christchurch Call Unit Work Programme

Governance Arrangements

7. The immediate focus has been to establish governance arrangements to oversee the work required to ensure New Zealand meets its commitments under the Call and to progress our overall objectives for the operation of the Call.
8. The Unit has worked with other agencies to develop "light touch" arrangements to govern the work required by agencies to meet New Zealand's Call commitments. These governance arrangements augment the partnership between DPMC and MFAT and recognise the significance of the role of DIA to the Christchurch Call domestic work programme.
9. The Chief Executive of DPMC has been discussing with the Chief Executives of MFAT and DIA whether it would be useful to establish a Steering Group of second tier representatives from their agencies. MFAT and DIA have each nominated a representative. DPMC is to be

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represented by Anneliese Parkin and Tony Lynch to reflect the full range of DPMC's responsibilities. Anneliese Parkin will Chair the Steering Group.

10. The Steering Group is responsible for supporting you to discharge your leadership role as co-founder of the Call and for ensuring New Zealand successfully delivers on its commitments under the Call.
11. In addition to the members of the Steering Group, the Christchurch Call Unit has identified other agencies with roles relevant to the work streams agreed at the Second Anniversary Summit:
 - MBIE
 - Police
 - Ministry of Justice
 - Te Arawhiti
 - Ministry for Ethnic Communities.
12. To reduce complexity and transaction costs it is proposed to engage with this wider cohort of agencies on a bilateral basis as required to progress specific work streams.
13. The Unit has also developed key messages to share with relevant government agencies, to support them in understanding their contribution to the work of the Christchurch Call. The key messages are attached as Appendix One, for your information.

Building Capacity to Support You...

14. The Department established the Christchurch Call Unit within the Policy Advisory Group of DPMC just prior to the Second Anniversary Summit of the Christchurch Call. At that time, I was designated as head of the Unit (while retaining responsibilities as your Special Representative on Cyber and Digital, and some existing cyber responsibilities on a part-time basis).
15. Recruitment has now been completed to bring the capacity of the Unit to five staff, just under 4.0 FTE, from 16 August. The members of the team have been selected to ensure a broad range of skills and experience is available to the Unit and that it has the credibility and capability to lead work required to progress commitments made in Paris and the work plan endorsed at the Second Anniversary Summit. The team includes a secondee from Internet NZ.
16. This capacity is augmented by that allocated by MFAT, currently 2.0 FTE.

....and Deliver the Call Work Programme

17. The Unit is working with the wider Community on initiatives to fulfil the work plans endorsed by the Second Anniversary Summit. It is also participating actively in relevant international fora and supporting those within the Community to promote greater understanding of and engagement with the Call. Current work includes setting up a dialogue with the Internet Society and others on policymaking consistent with a free, open and secure internet; convening a working group on algorithmic outcomes; and developing the foundations of a self-sustaining community.

18. The Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism held its annual Summit on 26-29 July and made several helpful announcements that also contribute to Call objectives. The Unit is working closely with the GIFCT and its members as it develops its initiatives.
19. Prior to the Second Anniversary Summit you identified building a dynamic and self-sustaining Community as a priority for New Zealand. The workplan endorsed by Leaders during the Summit recognised the priority of building the Community, including as a necessary foundation for work on the other priority areas.
20. The focus for work to build the Community is to enhance its reach and effectiveness by increasing the involvement of online service providers and introducing more diverse community representatives and technical experts. The focus is not currently on seeking new government support.
21. As discussed with you, decisions to build the Community must preserve its credibility and integrity and reinforce the foundation values agreed in Paris to implement the Call:
 - building a multi-stakeholder forum that works in a transparent, open and collaborative manner
 - upholding human rights
 - promoting a free, open and secure internet that enhances social inclusiveness and fosters economic growth.
22. The Unit has recently completed engagement with the wider Community to develop material for public circulation on 'Becoming a Call Supporter.' This material will be available on the Christchurch Call website and provides the foundation for the next phase of work to expand the Community. It is proposed to draw on the principles that have informed decisions to date rather than develop a prescriptive process to guide expanding the Community.. This will ensure that steps to expand the Community preserve its unique features and its continuing ability to be cohesive and productive. The overall approach adopted will be worked through with France and the wider community. We will keep you engaged and informed as we take this work forward.
23. As you know, there are current expressions of interest in joining the Community s6(a) [REDACTED]. The Unit is working with MFAT to support discussions s6(a) [REDACTED] about the priorities agreed at the Second Summit s6(a) [REDACTED].
24. We will also consider the timing of the next Leader-level check in on the Christchurch Call - noting that the new COVID variants are leading to uncertainty over opportunities for in-person Leader-level engagement this calendar year. We will provide advice on this in the next quarter.

Next Steps

Focus until December 2021

25. The Unit will promote the role and contribution of the Call Community to ensure the priorities agreed at the Summit are delivered.
26. We will continue to engage with the wider Community on the approach to expanding the diversity and reach of the Community and will work closely with our French partner to implement the work programme required to meet the goals set at the Second Summit.

27. Specific areas of focus for the next three months on the four Summit workstreams are:
- Algorithms: progressing the work underway, and seeking to ensure GIFCT and work proposed in the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence can constructively deliver on Summit outcomes
 - Crisis Response: updating the Christchurch Call Response Protocol and engaging with related work underway by GIFCT on an Incident Response Framework
 - Transparency: agreeing on next steps in taking forward Online Service Provider and government transparency commitments
 - Community –develop our approach to expanding diversity and reach of the Community (including requests from companies to join the Call) and supporting work to deliver on the Summit work stream.
28. We propose to provide you with briefing and advice on these work streams as they develop, with the next briefing focused on work to develop a stronger Call Community.
29. We have consulted MFAT when preparing this advice.

Communications

30. We propose to proactively release this paper on the DPMC website.
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Appendix One

Christchurch Call Key Messages

Establishing the Christchurch Call

- Initiative developed following terrorist attack in Christchurch on March 15, 2019
- Co-led by New Zealand and France
- Response to urgent need for action and enhanced co-operation among the wide range of actors with influence over issue of terrorist and violent extremist material online

Defining features of Christchurch Call approach

- Recognition that no one sector could unilaterally successfully eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online
- Collective and voluntary community with shared goal to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist behaviour online

Christchurch Call Community

- Participants:
 - Founders – New Zealand and France
 - Governments
 - Online service providers
 - Christchurch Call Community Advisory Network
 - Experts
 - Civil society organisations
 - Technical providers
 - GIFCT
 - International forums and organisations
- Shared commitment to goals and objectives of the Christchurch Call and to the collaborative and collective approach to achieving those objectives

Goals and Objectives

- Eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online
- Promote and protect human rights and a free, open and secure internet
- Preserve internet as a force for good able to promote connectivity, enhance social inclusiveness and foster economic growth

Areas of priority focus

- Stop online radicalisation
- Develop technical tools to disrupt and prevent TEV use of the internet
- Enhance crisis response capability
- Build resilient and vibrant communities in which diversity is fostered and valued

New Zealand's role and obligations

- Co-founder – promote and protect integrity and viability of community and CC initiative
- Domestic obligations – exemplar for Christchurch Call initiatives

Work plans endorsed at Second Anniversary Summit

- Community
- Algorithms and positive interventions
- Crisis Response
- Transparency

Governance Arrangements

- MFAT and DPMC jointly responsible for New Zealand contribution to Christchurch Call
- DPMC hosts Christchurch Call Unit
 - Unit provides Secretariat support to Christchurch Call Community
 - Co-ordinates and facilitates New Zealand agencies contribute to work of Christchurch Call
 - Engages with global members of Christchurch Call Community
- Steering Committee chaired by DPMC to provide oversight and guidance to domestic work programme to ensure New Zealand meets its obligations in relation to the Christchurch Call
- Governance arrangements are “light touch” to ensure flexibility and momentum can be maintained as work programmes are developed.
- MFAT, DPMC and DIA are core domestic agencies – wider cohort of agencies also have important contribution to make to ensure success of Christchurch Call