



18 August 2021

Ref: OIA-2020/21-0702

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request relating to speakers at He Whenua Taurikura

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) from the Office of Hon Andrew Little on 23 June 2021. You requested:

"...copies of any and all information held regarding correspondence/discussions in relation to the selection of speakers at the recent anti-terrorism hui in Christchurch, be they emails, letters, memos, faxes, phone call logs, phone call transcripts, minutes of meeting, etc., from the very first time the idea of this Royal Commission of Enquiry was mentioned..."

I note the time limits for responding to your request were extended under section 15A of the Act by 20 working days to allow for further consultation to be undertaken. Following this, I am now in a position to respond.

In considering the scope of your request, I have perceived "speakers" to be intended as panellist speakers. Further, as speakers had been chosen at the point invitations were sent out, I have taken invitations to panel members to be out of scope of your request. If I have misinterpreted the intention of your request, please advise. In addition, although your request specified the timeframe to be from *"the very first time the idea of this Royal Commission of Enquiry was mentioned"*, direct planning of He Whenua Taurikura and potential panel speakers could not logistically begin until March 2021. The enclosed material accordingly incorporates relevant information prepared between March – June 2021.

For background, it may be helpful for me to begin by noting that the speakers on the panels were selected by the National Security Group at DPMC, with no input by Ministers, or consultation with them. As you know, He Whenua Taurikura 2021 was New Zealand's first hui on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. The hui is one of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain. The goals of this hui were to promote public conversation, understanding and research on radicalisation; look at how to challenge hate-motivated extremist ideologies; and cover priorities to address New Zealand's terrorism and violent extremism issues.

Terrorism and violent extremism are complex issues, with many aspects that are at times contentious. In considering who would speak on the panel discussions, DPMC had a strong obligation to ensure that participants not only brought expertise in the topics they would be discussing but also that a diversity of backgrounds and range of perspectives were represented. Across the five panel discussions, DPMC sought to have a balance between different viewpoints, including across government, academia and civil society. We also aimed to ensure a gender balance and a cross-representation of different faiths and ethnicities.

As part of this process, prominent national organisations, including from Muslim communities and Jewish communities – recognised as communities in New Zealand that are at heightened risk from terrorism and violent extremism – were asked to nominate panellists. One nomination from each of these groups, including from the Jewish Council, was selected to participate as a panel member. None of the panel members were expected in any way to represent an entire community when they spoke. Other than providing guidance on the panel topics and facilitating the panel discussions, DPMC did not seek to influence what any of the panel members said. Any views expressed by the panel members were their own.

There were more potential panellists than places available at this inaugural event, with a variety of expertise and informed perspectives. I anticipate that future He Whenua Taurikura hui will therefore seek to create space for a broad range of diverse and different speakers.

Please find enclosed material identified as relevant to your request. I note you specified your request to include *“letters, memos, faxes, phone call logs, phone call transcripts, minutes of meeting, etc., from the very first time the idea of this Royal Commission of Enquiry was mentioned”*. I must formally refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information in the form requested here does not exist.

As alluded to in the enclosed information, the selection was largely made through in person discussions based on the parameters outlined on page one of the release material. Some information has been marked or removed as out of scope of your request. In addition, it is necessary to withhold some material under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a), “to protect the privacy of natural persons”;
- section 9(2)(ba)(i), to protect information “where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied”; and
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to “maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty”.

Some further material was identified as in scope of your request. I have decided to withhold this information in full under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i), as outlined above, as well as section 6(d) of the Act, as the “making available of that information would be likely to endanger the safety of any person”.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, no public interest in releasing the withheld information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

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**

He Whenua Taurikura
New Zealand’s Hui on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Panels to comprise four participants, plus one panel chair to introduce and moderate.
Aim for panels covering. i) research community; ii) govt / policy; and iii) communities / civil society
No all male (or all female) panels. Maori representation important. Consider ethnic mix and youth representation.

Monday 14 June

Out of scope

9.15am-10.45am 9(2)(a)	Panel 1. Terrorism challenges – the dynamic nature of the terrorism and violent extremism risk	
	<div><div><div>Name</div><div>Cecile Hillyer</div><div>Rebecca Kitteridge</div><div>Dr John Battersby</div><div>Detective Superintendent Greg Nicholls</div><div>Dr Chris Wilson</div></div><div><div>9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Organisation</div><div>Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (M</div><div>Director-General of Security, New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSI</div><div>Massey University</div><div>Director National Security (Counter-Terrorism), New Zealand Police</div><div>University of Auckland</div></div><div><div>9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)</div></div></div>

Out of scope

1.15pm-2.45pm 9(2)(a)	Panel 2. Addressing the causes - how can embracing community and diversity approaches contribute to preventing and countering violent extremism	
	<div><div><div>Name</div><div>Paul James</div><div>Prof Paul Spoonley</div><div>Dr Sara Salman</div><div>Juliet Moses</div><div>Prof Edwina Pio</div></div><div><div>9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Organisation</div><div>Secretary for Internal Affairs, Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)</div><div>Massey University</div><div>Victoria University of Wellington</div><div>New Zealand Jewish Council</div><div>Auckland University of Technology (AUT)</div></div><div><div>9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)</div></div></div>

3.15pm-4.45pm 9(2)(a)	Panel 3. Role of the media – building cultural understanding and countering violent extremism	
	<div><div><div>Name</div><div>Catherine Delore</div><div>Khairiah Rahman</div><div>Miriyana Alexander</div><div>Richard Sutherland</div><div>Sinead Boucher</div></div><div><div>9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Organisation</div><div>Director Communications and Engagement, Department of the Prime Ministe</div><div>Auckland University of Technology (AUT)</div><div>Head of Premium, NZ Herald at NZME</div><div>Head of News, Radio New Zealand</div><div>Chief Executive, Stuff Ltd</div></div><div><div>9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)</div></div></div>

Out of scope

Wednesday 16 June

Out of scope

9.00am-10.30am	Panel 4. Violent extremism online - new directions in preventing radicalisation and violent extremism in the digital world		9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)
9(2)(a)	Name	Organisation	
	Paul Ash	Prime Minister's Special Representative on Cyber and Digital, Department of	
	Anjum Rahman	Inclusive Aotearoa Collective Tāhono	
	Sanjana Hattotuwa	University of Otago	
	Jordan Carter	Chief Executive, InternetNZ	
	Kate Hannah	Te Pūnaha Matatini and University of Auckland	
	Dr Nawab Osman	Facebook	
Nick Pickles	Twitter		
9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)			

10.45am-12.15pm	Panel 5. Preventing and countering violent extremism – Aotearoa New Zealand's strategic approach		
Status	Name	Organisation	9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)
9(2)(a)	Carolyn Tremain	Chief Executive, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)	
	Andrew Coster	Commissioner of Police, New Zealand Police	
	Tayyaba Khan	Founder and CEO, Khadija Leadership Network	
	Dr Rawiri Taonui	Independent researcher?	
	Paula Attrill	General Manager, International Casework and Adoption, Oranga Tamariki	
9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)			

Out of scope

From: Andy George
Sent: Monday, 12 April 2021 5:08 PM
To: Cherie Blithe [DPMC]; Paul Ash [DPMC]
Cc: Manisha Bhikha [DPMC]; Julia Macdonald [DPMC]
Subject: RE: Panel members for CT hui in June

Thanks Cherie. I think it would be great to get a couple from this list on the panel on the role of the media. Also, do you know if there are there any good academics working in this area?

From: Cherie Blithe [DPMC] 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 12 April 2021 4:42 pm
To: Andy George 9(2)(a); Paul Ash [DPMC] 9(2)(a)
Cc: Manisha Bhikha [DPMC] 9(2)(a); Julia Macdonald [DPMC] 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Panel members for CT hui in June

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Andy

I plan to chat to Catherine about this tomorrow as well. We will have the following folk from the Media Freedom Committee attend our CT meeting on 30 April and it would be good to discuss then. Tony will be discussing RCOI feedback around media at this meeting.

9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)

Ngā mihi
Cherie

From: Andy George 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 12 April 2021 4:36 pm
To: Paul Ash [DPMC] 9(2)(a)
Cc: Manisha Bhikha [DPMC] 9(2)(a); Julia Macdonald [DPMC] 9(2)(a); Cherie Blithe [DPMC] 9(2)(a)
Subject: Panel members for CT hui in June

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi Paul,

Following up our discussions last week, I'd be grateful for any thoughts you might have on potential members to participate on two panels that we are proposing for the inaugural CT Hui (concept paper attached) to be held 15-16 June.

- Violent extremism online – the challenges and opportunities of radicalisation and violent extremism in the digital world. [I think you'd mentioned 9(2)(g)(i) ?]

- Role of the media – building understanding of diversity and positive representation, challenging negative stereotypes, and preventing and countering violent extremism. [In particular after any thoughts you might have on social media reps who could participate in this, but also more traditional media, academics or any others you might think of]

Each panel will run for ~90 minutes and comprise four participants, plus one panel chair to introduce and moderate if/as required. Of the four members of each panel, we're aiming to cover i) research community; ii) govt / policy; and iii) communities / civil society, with a good gender, ethnicity and age mix if possible.

All help and thoughts very welcome!

Ngā mihi, Andy

Andy George

Counter-Terrorism Strategic Coordinator
National Security Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

P 9(2)(a)

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Annual Hui on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism – Draft Concept

Lead agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC)

Purpose of this Document

This document outlines an initial concept for delivering New Zealand's inaugural annual hui on countering terrorism and violent extremism. All the information set out here is a draft starting point to stimulate further discussion and input, and will be subject to consultation with academics, researchers and civil society organisations prior to being finalised.

Vision

To deliver an inaugural annual hui on countering terrorism and violent extremism that:

- Builds engagement and promotes new innovative thinking.
- Creates space for active participation by a diverse range of contributors and stakeholders¹.
- Provides an opportunity to build relationships and shared understanding.

Background

Recommendation 16 from the Royal Commission directs Government to 'host an annual hui, to bring together relevant central and local government agencies, communities, civil society, the private sector and researchers to create opportunities to build relationships and share understanding of countering violent extremism and terrorism'.

This recommendation is linked to recommendation 14, which seeks to address a paucity of New Zealand-specific research on the causes of, and measures to prevent, violent extremism and terrorism, and recommendation 15, which recommends that the Government create opportunities to improve public understanding of extremism and terrorism.

The annual hui on countering terrorism and violent extremism therefore provides an opportunity for government – both Ministers and officials – to make progress against several recommendations. It also provides an opportunity to demonstrate a change in the way that the national security system operates, and for New Zealanders to engage in public discourse on radicalisation, challenging hate-motivated extremist ideologies, and priorities for collectively addressing terrorism and violent extremism, framed in the context of embracing diversity and building social cohesion.

Hui Outcomes

Leaders and experts from across New Zealand society **collectively examine challenges and opportunities**, share insights and expertise, and advance practical and creative solutions to countering terrorism and violent extremism in Aotearoa New Zealand.

¹ Including but significantly beyond traditional national security perspectives, and to include a range of Māori, social sciences and humanities disciplines, and those working on diversity and social cohesion.

UNCLASSIFIED

Increase national awareness of issues related to terrorism and violent extremism, including through media coverage during the hui and a published compendium after its completion, to include research papers / policy briefs and key outputs from the hui.

Build relationships and networks between civil society, academia, and government that will lay the groundwork for the ongoing work of the National Centre of Excellence.

Discuss and develop options for the vision, operating model, location and role of the **National Centre of Excellence**, to directly support the Centre's establishment in second half of 2021.

Discuss and agree an initial set of focused **research themes for 2021/22**, to guide academia and wider research organisations / institutes, and to be included as key topics for the next annual hui in 2022.

Dates, Venue and Funding

The hui is planned to be held over two days from 15-16 June 2021, at a suitable venue in Christchurch (provisionally the Christchurch Town Hall). Future hui will be hosted at a variety of venues across the country.

Costs for hosting and the attendance of participants at the hui will be primarily funded by DPMC, including from funding for establishment of the National Centre of Excellence² (which will form a key part of the agenda). This funding will cover venue hosting costs, travel and accommodation costs for hui participants, and potentially honorarium payments for speakers.

Attendees

As diverse a range participants and attendees as possible will be sought through specific invitations, targeted promotion and wider publicity prior to the event. The intent is that this will include participation from:

- Academia and wider research organisations / institutes.
- Civil society organisations.
- Ngāi Tahu and other iwi / tangata whenua.
- Aotearoa New Zealand's diverse ethnic and faith communities.
- Ministers and MPs.
- Central government agencies (CEs and senior officials).
- Local government.
- Private sector organisations.
- Media organisations.
- Relevant international experts (potential virtual participation, plus diplomatic corps).

² \$300,000 for establishment costs in FY 2020/21.

Format and Agenda Items

The detailed format and agenda will be developed based on ongoing consultation prior to the event. A potential structure for the two days would be:

- Day One: Mihi whakatau; plenary session, to include keynote speech and opening presentations; panel discussions.
- Day Two: Further panel discussions; breakout / workshop sessions and report back; hui summary and outcomes; mihi whakakapi.

Topics for the various presentations, panel discussions and workshops are to be determined, including through an early call to potential participants for input. Some of these sessions would be open to the media, with others held under Chatham House rules. Potential topics raised during consultation with academics and others have included:

- Developing an Aotearoa New Zealand strategic approach to preventing and countering violent extremism.
- Building social cohesion and diversity approaches to prevent and counter hate, alienation, polarisation and drivers of radicalisation and violent extremism.
- Evolving nature of the global, national and local terrorism and violent extremism risk.
- Lessons New Zealand can draw from comparative international responses to terrorism and violent extremism challenges.
- Role of the media in challenging negative stereotypes, building understanding of diversity and positive representation, and preventing and countering violent extremism.
- Addressing community tensions, hate incidents, extremism and radicalisation at a local community level.
- Challenges of online radicalisation and violent extremism.

Options for the vision, operating model, location and role of the National Centre of Excellence will be discussed and agreed via a specific workshop, likely on Day Two.

From: Andy George
Sent: Tuesday, 13 April 2021 12:25 PM
To: Julia Macdonald [DPMC]; 9(2)(a) [DPMC]; Manisha Bhikha [DPMC]
Subject: RE: 4367616_Annual Hui Panelist Brainstorm.nrl
Attachments: 4367616_Annual Hui Panelist Brainstorm.nrl

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Manisha, 9(2)(a)

Julia and I had a go yesterday at shortlisting for our various CT Hui panels, and I'd like to run this past Tony in the next day or two so we can start getting invitations out (in particular for academics, who we'll probably be asking to contribute policy briefs in advance).

The latest updated version is attached – grateful for your thoughts and input! You'll see we have 5 or 6 shortlisted for most of the panels, and are awaiting input from Cherie and Paul on a couple of others.

Manisha, if you have any time this afternoon maybe we can jump on Teams and discuss?

Thanks, Andy

From: Andy George
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 12:37 pm
To: Julia Macdonald [DPMC] 9(2)(a); 9(2)(a) [DPMC] 9(2)(a);
Manisha Bhikha [DPMC] 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: 4367616_Annual Hui Panelist Brainstorm.nrl

I've started fleshing out brainstorm ideas for our hui panellists, so if you have any thoughts please add them in.

Out of scope

Cheers, Andy

From: Julia Macdonald [DPMC] 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 29 March 2021 12:02 pm
To: Andy George 9(2)(a); 9(2)(a) [DPMC] 9(2)(a) Manisha Bhikha
[DPMC] 9(2)(a)
Subject: 4367616_Annual Hui Panelist Brainstorm.nrl

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi all,

A quick document to help start brainstorming names for the panels at the annual hui – feel free to modify to suit as needed.

Thanks,

Ngā mihi,

Julia Macdonald

Principal Policy Advisor
National Security Policy Directorate
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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From: Julia Macdonald [DPMC]
Sent: Monday, 26 April 2021 9:58 PM
To: Manisha Bhikha [DPMC]; Andy George
Subject: RE: thanks: National hui on countering terrorism and violent extremism, 14-16 June [UNCLASSIFIED]

Sorry Andy! I read and forgot to reply - agree 9(2)(g)(i)

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Manisha Bhikha [DPMC] 9(2)(a)
Date: Monday, 26 Apr 2021, 9:55 PM
To: Andy George 9(2)(a), Julia Macdonald [DPMC] 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: thanks: National hui on countering terrorism and violent extremism, 14-16 June

Thanks – 9(2)(g)(i)

From: Andy George 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 23 April 2021 5:28 pm
To: Manisha Bhikha [DPMC] 9(2)(a); Julia Macdonald [DPMC] 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: thanks: National hui on countering terrorism and violent extremism, 14-16 June

I've obviously not met 9(2)(a) but I think 9(2)(a) looks like a great potential speaker for 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)
9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)

Cheers, Andy

From: Andy George
Sent: Friday, 23 April 2021 5:21 pm
To: 9(2)(a)
Cc: Manisha Bhikha [DPMC] 9(2)(a); Julia Macdonald [DPMC] 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: thanks: National hui on countering terrorism and violent extremism, 14-16 June

Kia ora 9(2)(a),

Excellent, it will be great to have you involved in these discussions and be able to draw on your knowledge in these areas. We are still working on pulling together the framing and participants for the hui panel discussions, but certainly think you would have much to contribute so will be in touch as this progresses.

I hope you have a great long weekend.

Ngā mihi, Andy

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 23 April 2021 2:06 pm

To: Andy George 9(2)(a) >

Subject: thanks: National hui on countering terrorism and violent extremism, 14-16 June

9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i) - email from an academic

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From: Catherine Delore [DPMC]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 May 2021 11:27 am
To: Cherie Blithe [DPMC]
Subject: RE: CT hui - media panel member 9(2)(a)

Yes, very happy to follow their guidance and she does look good.

From: Cherie Blithe [DPMC] 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 12 May 2021 11:23 am
To: Catherine Delore [DPMC] 9(2)(a)
Cc: 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: CT hui - media panel member 9(2)(a)

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi Catherine

Thoughts on this? Seems fine to me. Andy said he can invite.

Ngā mihi
Cherie

From: Andy George 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 12 May 2021 11:09 am
To: Cherie Blithe [DPMC] 9(2)(a); 9(2)(a)
Subject: CT hui - media panel member 9(2)(a)

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi Cherie

6(d), 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i)

Have a look and see what you think, but my feeling is that she would be good 9(2)(g)(i)
[REDACTED]. Happy to send her the invitation.

Ngā mihi, Andy

Andy George

Counter-Terrorism Strategic Coordinator
National Security Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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