



20 June 2022



Ref: OIA-2021/22-1277

Dear 

**Official Information Act request relating to Official Information Act 1982 requests received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for the last five financial years**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 26 April 2022. You requested:

*"I am seeking information relating to OIA requests received by DPMC for the last five financial years (2016/2017 until 2020/2021). I am aware that you proactively publish the responses to many OIAs on your website, however I am specifically interested in those that relate to the National Security Group and/or any of the functions within the group. By way of explanation, I am wanting to analyse the patterns/themes in what the interested public have asked DPMC about relating to national security/intelligence over the last five financial years. For context, I have also made this same request to NZSIS and GCSB. I am not interested in all OIAs received by DPMC, only those that relate to issues of national security/intelligence. I would like to request for all of the above:*

- Full text of the OIA request/questions received*
- Date the request was received*
- The status of the reply i.e. if the request was responded to in full, in part (including abridged/redacted releases), or declined.*
- If any information was withheld, details of the relevant sections of the OIA under which information was not provided.*

*To clarify, I am not seeking details of who is making requests, or copies/details of responses provided by DPMC; only the overall status of the reply to each request and any reasons for withholding."*

The time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 20 working days because consultations was needed before a decision could be made on the request. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

On 20 May 2022, DPMC contacted you about a refinement of the scope of your original request, which captures a large amount of information. We advised that DPMC have responded to similar requests in the past where we have provided the title or summary of the information asked for as well as the date of the request within the time frames of your original request.

14 April 2016 – 14 July 2020:

[dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2020-11/dpmc-roiar-oia-2020-21-0027-oia-tracking-system.pdf](https://dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2020-11/dpmc-roiar-oia-2020-21-0027-oia-tracking-system.pdf)

4 July 2020 – 1 March 2021:

[dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2021-08/dpmc-roiar-oia-2020-21-0483-oia-requests-1march2018-1march2021.pdf](https://dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2021-08/dpmc-roiar-oia-2020-21-0483-oia-requests-1march2018-1march2021.pdf)

Consequently, DPMC asked if we could provide you with a list of requests received by DPMC's National Security Group (NSG) in the format of these responses, from 1 March 2021 to the date of your request.

On 21 May 2021 you confirmed that you were comfortable with this approach. Additionally you also asked that we provide you with a summary of the frequency of different withholding grounds used, the total number of OIAs directed to NSG for each of the time periods in your original request, and whether DPMC has a policy or guidelines for the proactive release of responses under the Act.

Please see below a list of titles of requests received by DPMC and assigned to NSG from 1 March 2021 to 26 April 2022. The titles in the list are a summary of the information requested by the requestor at the point of receipt. Summary titles are typically developed by administrative staff and have been included verbatim in this response. I note that the summary title does not reflect the existence of the requested information.

The following withholding grounds in the Act are frequently used in responses to requests for official information assigned to NSG:

- section 6(a) – there is good reason for withholding the information if the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;
- section 9(2)(a) – the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons.

NSG has been assigned the following number of requests for official information from 1 July 2016 to the date of your original request, broken down by financial year:

Financial year	Number of requests received
2016/17 FY	13
2017/18 FY	17
2018/19 FY	28
2019/20 FY	18
2020/21 FY	61
2021/22 FY to date (26 April 2022)	63

DPMC follows the Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission guidelines for proactive release of documents. DPMC follows the Cabinet material release policy for the proactive release of Cabinet papers. This policy is available here: [dpmc.govt.nz/publications/proactive-release-cabinet-material](https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/proactive-release-cabinet-material)

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 the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet'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



**Acting Deputy Chief Executive  
National Security Group**



**Departmental Official Information Act requests, received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's National Security Group 1 March 2021 to 26 April 2022**

Received Date	Title (summary of information asked for)	Completed Date	Extension Days
4/03/2021	Number of ODESC meetings since 2019	31/03/2021	
4/03/2021	Far-right extremism before March 15	19/04/2021	
8/03/2021	Documents with any form of right-wing extremism assessment prepared after 15 March 2019	6/05/2021	20
12/03/2021	Reports, advice, & documents re RCOI	12/05/2021	20
22/03/2021	Hui feedback given to PM and Ministers on 23 February 2021 meeting	20/05/2021	
12/04/2021	RCOI - Listed NAB, National Intelligence & Risk Coordination and Counter-Terrorism documents	9/06/2021	20
19/04/2021	Right wing extremism NAB assessments: titles and dates	7/05/2021	
22/04/2021	List of briefings sent to Minister GCSB/NZSIS 1 Jan - 20 April 2021	4/06/2021	
30/04/2021	List of briefings sent to Minister RCOI 1 Jan - 20 April 2021	27/05/2021	
4/05/2021	RCOI Right Wing Extremism - The Right Wing In New Zealand - Myth vs Reality	27/05/2021	
8/05/2021	Feedback from LessNZ report	24/06/2021	20
10/05/2021	Request for paper 5G Security Introduction	31/05/2021	
11/05/2021	Copies of right-wing extremism documents 1 January 2015 - 11 May 2021	21/07/2021	20
11/05/2021	Two ODESC governance boards and committees	7/07/2021	20
11/05/2021	Copies of right-wing extremism documents 1 January 2015 - 11 May 2021	21/07/2021	30
11/05/2021	Two ODESC governance boards and committees	7/07/2021	20
12/05/2021	Provide copy of OIA-2020/21-0430	12/05/2021	
13/05/2021	New Zealand national security system released in May 2011	9/06/2021	
20/05/2021	Briefings and Cabinet material 2017 - 31 December 2020 relating to Risk Register	29/07/2021	20
26/05/2021	DPMCs strategic framework - resilience to misinformation	21/07/2021	20
27/05/2021	Appendix 16, 17 & 60 of the Arotake report	25/06/2021	
28/05/2021	RCOI: Four Briefings	26/07/2021	20
1/06/2021	RCOI: Request for Cabinet Minute ERS-21-MIN-0006	30/06/2021	
4/06/2021	Two latest National Cyber Policy Office's and/or advisories to DEC Minister on Health sector	5/07/2021	

Received Date	Title (summary of information asked for)	Completed Date	Extension Days
4/06/2021	Cyber Security strategy, Annual reports, National Cyber Policy Office Obligations, advice on DHBs and public health	2/08/2021	20
17/06/2021	RCOI: Copies of Security & Intelligence Board and Counter-Terrorism documents	29/11/2021	20
17/06/2021	Questions relating to RCOI and Counter Terrorism	No Response Required	
18/06/2021	Report mentioned in an ODESC Minute	5/07/2021	
21/06/2021	Cyber security exercises, work programme, and Cyber Security Emergency Response Plan	16/08/2021	20
21/06/2021	Origins of SARS-CoV-2	13/08/2021	20
23/06/2021	He Whenua Taurikura speakers	18/08/2021	20
25/06/2021	Whakaari LessoNZ follow up	13/08/2021	20
29/06/2021	RCOI: Counter Terrorism Hui - plans for project, communication, risk management; participants list; evaluations	17/08/2021	20
6/07/2021	Cyber Security in schools	2/08/2021	
6/07/2021	Copies of briefings: NZ Approach to Cyber Ransoms; Strengthening NZ's Resilience to Mis/Disinformation	3/08/2021	
7/07/2021	Decision on speakers at counter-terrorism hui	25/08/2021	20
7/07/2021	Counter-terrorism system capability review	18/08/2021	
12/07/2021	Camp Taji: Cabinet material, NSG briefings and NSG comms to Ministers January - June 2020	30/07/2021	
14/07/2021	Info about four Security & Intelligence Board sub-committees (TDWC, MAPSSG, NIOSC, AML/CFT NCC)	28/07/2021	
15/07/2021	Selection panel for Ministerial Advisory Group	4/08/2021	
16/07/2021	Decision on speakers at counter-terrorism hui	25/08/2021	
24/07/2021	Muslim books	17/08/2021	
24/07/2021	Survey feedback from He Whenua Taurikura	19/08/2021	
28/07/2021	Foreign Trained Fighters Cabinet paper, policy documents & numbers	29/11/2021	20
1/08/2021	Budapest Convention and data preservation scheme	18/08/2021	
16/08/2021	Martial law email and operation Kea	13/09/2021	
18/08/2021	Afghanistan rescue operation	15/09/2021	
26/08/2021	Data preservation: Companies responses	23/09/2021	
30/08/2021	Afghanistan	4/11/2021	20
4/09/2021	Number of individuals of national security interest	1/10/2021	
6/09/2021	Comms regarding 3 September terrorist	4/10/2021	
7/09/2021	Briefing: New Zealand Approach to Cyber Ransoms	13/09/2021	

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8/09/2021	Defence & Security Media Notice	22/09/2021	
10/09/2021	Request for NSG documents	8/11/2021	20
17/09/2021	NZSIS & GCSB Ministerial Policy Statements	8/10/2021	
21/09/2021	Advice and comms re safety and security of NZ cricket team	12/11/2021	20
3/10/2021	US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency	1/11/2021	
15/10/2021	Counterterrorism prevention strategy	12/11/2021	
20/10/2021	Responses to consultation on New Zealand's draft principles and objectives for negotiating a new UN convention on cybercrime	15/12/2021	20
25/10/2021	National Risk Register	20/12/2021	20
2/11/2021	Eight NSG Documents	1/02/2022	20
18/11/2021	Implementation of RCOI Recommendation 27	8/12/2021	
22/11/2021	Counter-Terrorism review documents	8/02/2022	20
28/11/2021	NAB: Assessments of Climate Change in the 1980s	9/02/2022	20
7/12/2021	Government response to RCOI 3 August work programme	25/01/2022	
21/12/2021	Protocols of the Foreign Interference Committee	25/01/2022	
12/01/2022	Policy Framework for management and return of Foreign Terrorist Fighters	27/01/2022	
17/01/2022	List of National Security Group briefings and Cabinet papers since January 2021	27/05/2022	
24/01/2022	New Zealand Pandemic Risk Profile	28/03/2022	20
26/01/2022	CTAG reporting regarding pandemic related anti-establishment rhetoric	22/02/2022	
26/01/2022	Most recent Annual National Maritime Security Assessment	15/02/2022	
27/01/2022	Request for papers re Foreign Terrorist Fighters policy framework	2/02/2022	
7/02/2022	Australia-New Zealand National Security Dialogue		60
8/02/2022	information re Foreign Trained Fighters in Afghanistan	4/03/2022	
14/02/2022	National Assessments Committee reports 2007 - 2015 and terms of reference	14/03/2022	
22/02/2022	Briefings on protests at Parliament	No Response Required	
22/02/2022	Meetings on protests at Parliament	10/05/2022	
25/02/2022	Eight NSG Documents (Follow Up)		20
3/03/2022	ODESC response to anti-mandate protests	10/05/2022	
7/03/2022	Mis/Disinformation	25/05/2022	20
8/03/2022	(NZSIS) Cloud Services Report	No Response Required	

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8/03/2022	Planning for nuclear fallout and winter	11/05/2022	
9/03/2022	National Security system	23/11/2022	30
9/03/2022	Information held on Alexander Abramov	29/04/2022	
11/03/2022	Cloud Services Report	6/04/2022	
14/03/2022	NAB Reports on the far right	7/04/2022	
16/03/2022	GCSB-NZSIS Ministerial Policy Statement briefings (follow-up)	13/04/2022	
17/03/2022	Request for NSG documents	17/05/2022	20
24/03/2022	Cyber Security Projects and Initiatives document	22/04/2022	
28/03/2022	Correspondence regarding Alexander Abramov in 2022	28/04/2022	
28/03/2022	NZSIS reports to the National Assessments Committee during the years 2007 to 2015	28/04/2022	
28/03/2022	Correspondence regarding Alexander Abramov in 2022	28/04/2022	
29/03/2022	Documents regarding violent extremism	10/05/2022	
29/03/2022	Vectors of harm papers	27/04/2022	
30/03/2022	Equipment provided to Ukraine	26/04/2022	
1/04/2022	NAB reports on withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan	2/05/2022	
5/04/2022	National security portfolio briefings		20
5/04/2022	Foreign interference briefings and Cabinet paper		20
8/04/2022	Border security information	5/05/2022	
10/04/2022	Countering mis/disinformation strategic framework	26/05/2022	
11/04/2022	Counter jihad concerns	10/05/2022	
12/04/2022	17 February ODESC meeting on the Freedom Convoy protest	No Response Required	
21/04/2022	Convoy, protest and occupation of Parliament		20