



24 October 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2024/25-0298

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request relating to RCOI documents

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 26 September 2024. You requested:

*"I would like to request all the supporting documents held by the Department, regarding the terrorist and the terrorist attack, which were produced in evidence to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019 (the Inquiry), but which were brought into existence independently, and not for the purposes, of the Inquiry, as outlined in this final minute:
<https://christchurchattack.royalcommission.nz/about-the-inquiry/minutes/minute-4/>"*

Please note that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) provided documents to the Royal Commission of Inquiry (Royal Commission) in response to specific information requests that were relevant to the Royal Commission's [Terms of Reference](#). These Terms of Reference were focused on what certain State sector agencies knew prior to the terror attack on 15 March 2019, and on actions taken by those agencies ahead of that date.

We interpret your request to be for specific information regarding the terrorist, and the terrorist attack, rather than any information that DPMC provided of a more general nature to assist the Inquiry's understanding of the way the national security system works.

In relation to the terrorist, DPMC knew nothing about the terrorist and his activities before the attack and therefore did not hold any unique information about the accused and his activities to provide to the Royal Commission. DPMC is not an operational agency, nor an intelligence collector. Any information available on the terrorist would have been provided to the Royal Commission by other agencies, such as New Zealand Police or the intelligence and security agencies.

Any information held by DPMC regarding the terrorist attack was generated after the attack occurred through the operations of the Officials' Committee for Domestic and External Security (ODESC) strategic crisis management system. As such, this was out of scope of the Royal Commission's Terms of Reference. These documents were not requested, and not provided, to support the Royal Commission.

As identified above DPMC does not hold any documents in scope of your request; therefore, your request is refused in accordance with section 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by the department.

While we do not hold information in scope of your request, DPMC has previously released a large number of documents related to the terrorist attack under the Official Information Act. These documents can be found at: [Documents related to the ODESC, NCMC and NSG responses to the Christchurch terror attacks | \(DPMC\)](#).

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

This response will be published on the 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



Kevin Moar
Acting Executive Director, National Security