



10 March 2025



Ref: OIA-2024/25-0640

Tēnā koe ,

Official Information Act request relating to information held on the Church of Scientology from 2001 to present

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 10 February 2025. You requested:

“...From time to time the Church may seek what documents exist on file in government agencies that mention the Church, so that if any false information exists, then the Church may provide clarification or correction as needed, so that the true information is available to the agencies concerned.

With that in mind, I request the following:

DATE RANGE: 1 January 2001 to the present date

DOCUMENTS: Any correspondence, emails, text messages, phone notes, file notes, minutes of meetings or conferences, making reference to the Church of Scientology or related entities.”

We have conducted an initial assessment to determine the feasibility of providing the information you have requested – namely, any emails, text messages, records of phone calls, minutes, or file notes that reference the "Church of Scientology" or related entities, and which are dated from 1 January 2001 through 10 February 2025 (the date of your request).

This assessment involved a sample search of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's (DPMC's) electronic databases for information dated 1 January 2023 through 10 February 2025 that explicitly mentions the Church of Scientology (as opposed to "related entities"). From this assessment, no documents have been identified as within scope of this part of your request. I am therefore refusing the part of your request covered by the period sampled above under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

I am refusing the remainder of your request for the period from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2022 under section 18(f) of the Act as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. Searching through the remaining the 21-year timeframe within scope of your request would be likely to present a significant administrative burden, requiring extensive searches through two decades of DPMC's information management systems. I am likewise refusing the part of your request for information on "related entities", which could include potentially numerous subjects, thereby further increasing the resources required to respond to your request.

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 DPMC 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.

Nāku noa, nā,



Clare Ward
Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement