



27 May 2020

[REDACTED]

Reference: OIA-2019/20-0486

Dear [REDACTED]

**Official Information Act request relating to women's involvement in Radical-extremist groups**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 29 April 2020. You asked several questions, and I will respond to each in turn.

- 1) *have any females come to DPMC's attention for supporting extremist ideologies, including Islamic extremism, the white power spectrum such as supremacy, Extreme nationalism, far right, eco fascism, or any other "white power" focused movement. Also Left wing or single issue groups*

Yes, women have come to the attention of the National Security Group within DPMC for supporting extremist ideologies. Due to the nature and sources of this information, and in some cases its relation to ongoing investigations, we cannot provide any further specificity. This information is withheld under section 6(a) of the Act, which relates to the withholding of information where its release would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

- 2) *if yes to the above please provide :  
Age, Martial status, children (yes/no), employed/unemployed/retired. ethnicity*

This information is withheld under section 6(a) of the Act.

- 3) *Are any females being monitored for such activity?*

DPMC's role in counter-terrorism is generally to connect and coordinate the system. We do not have powers to monitor or investigate anybody, nor do we hold information about all of those individuals who are assessed to hold violent extremist views. The NZSIS is the lead agency for detecting, investigating and understanding such threats, and the NZ Police is the operational lead for reducing risk and responding to threats.

- 4) *In regards to any men that hold views which are deemed a national security / security concern is data taken on the females in their chosen group.*

Please refer to my response to question three.

- 5) *are there any NZ female citizens engaged with extreme ideologies overseas are of security interest?  
If yes - demographics please - age, occupation, location, relationship, ethnicity.*

This information is withheld under section 6(a) of the Act.

6) *has there been an analysis or risk assessment conducted relating to the potential return of females from Iraq and Syria ? or their children ( undocumented, dual citizens or NZ nationals ? ) If yes is this publicly available. ? is a redacted copy available ?*

This information is withheld under section 6(a) of the Act.

7) *what risk level is given to NZ female extremism?*

This information is withheld under section 6(a) of the Act.

8) *How many females work on national security matters within DPMC ages included please*

National security matters fall within the remit of the National Security Group (NSG) of DPMC. NSG comprises the National Assessments Bureau (NAB), the National Security Policy Directorate (NSPD), the National Security Systems Directorate (NSSD), the Intelligence Coordination Unit (ICU), Specialist Coordinators, National Security Communications, and National Security Workforce.

Across NSG there are 41 women staff. The age range of these staff members is 23 to 70.

9) *How many males and females work with counter terrorism matters. Age included please*

Within NSG, the number of people working on counter-terrorism issues can vary depending on priorities, and for some counter-terrorism is a small part of their broader national security work. However, there are usually around 11 people from across the group who work on counter-terrorism issues, 7 of whom are women. The age range of the women is 31 to 50, while the age range of the men is 41-60.

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



Tony Lynch  
Deputy Chief Executive  
National Security Group