



19 April 2021



Reference: OIA-2020/21-0411
and OIA-2020/21-0412

Dear 

Official Information Act requests relating to far-right extremism

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) requests received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 4 March 2021. You requested:

"...Any documents, briefings, reports or analyses produced by the National Assessments Committee, the National Assessments Bureau, the Combined Threat Assessment Group or the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service regarding domestic, far-right, right-wing, white supremacist, alt-right or white nationalist extremism and associated terror/criminal threats between January 1, 2015 and March 14, 2019. This request excludes emails and other correspondence..."

And

"...Any documents, briefings, reports or analyses produced by the National Assessments Committee, the National Assessments Bureau, the Combined Threat Assessment Group or the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service regarding domestic, far-right, right-wing, white supremacist, alt-right or white nationalist extremism and associated terror/criminal threats on or after March 15, 2019. This request excludes emails and other correspondence.

- Please note that I have also sent this request to the New Zealand Police and the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service, so there is no need to transfer parts of this request to them..."

I note the time limits for responding to your request were extended by 10 working days under section 15A of the Act to allow for further consultation. Following this, I am now in a position to respond.

In addition to this, I note you indicated that your requests were also sent to the New Zealand Police and New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS). Accordingly, I have not transferred the relevant parts to these agencies and have interpreted your requests, in so far as they relate to DPMC, to be solely for DPMC material.

In considering your requests, I have taken the scope to be for documents prepared by the National Assessments Bureau (NAB) where the predominant focus is either domestic terrorism, far-right terrorism, white supremacist terrorism, alt-right terrorism, white nationalist extremism and associated terror/criminal threats, for the timeframes specified.

To provide some context, I would note that assessments prepared by NAB typically focus on the international environment. These independent and impartial assessments are regarding events and developments relevant to New Zealand's national security and international relations. For clarity, the Combined Threat Assessment Group, within the NZSIS, is responsible for assessing the terrorism threats to New Zealand and New Zealand's interests. They provide independent assessments to wider government agencies of the threat posed by terrorism.

Of the 24 DPMC documents determined to be in scope of your requests, one was prepared between 1 January 2015 and 14 March 2019, and 23 were prepared between 15 March 2019 and 4 March 2021.

I have decided to withhold these documents in their entirety under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;
- Section 6(b)(i), to protect the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government; and
- Section 6(b)(ii), to protect the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by any international organisation.

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**