



17 August 2021

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2021/22-0041

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request relating to a specified book

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 24 July 2021. You requested:

"You will be aware as I am that a book advocating the execution of Gay People was discovered by the Australian Police in a Muslim School or building.

- a) Can you or the Security Service guarantee that similar books or pamphlets are not on Muslim shelves in New Zealand.*
- b) If you can on what basis is that guarantee given?*
- c) Have the security service satisfied themselves that similar literature is not available in New Zealand.*
- d) Would you consider it necessary that this be checked?"*

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) has consulted relevant agencies, and I believe that the matter of ensuring such material is not publicly available is ultimately the responsibility of the Classification Office, on the advice of enforcement agencies.

Upon consultation with the Classification Office, I understand that no such book has been identified to the Office by enforcement agencies, at this point in time. Therefore, a transfer of your request would not be appropriate. Instead, for the purposes of the Act, I must refuse under section 18(g)(i), as the information is not held, and we do not have reason to believe it is held by another agency or minister.

I appreciate your concerns about any book that would advocate murder, and would encourage you to lay a complaint to either:

- the New Zealand Police
www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/all-online-options, or
- the Department of Internal Affairs Censorship Compliance:
www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Resource-material-Information-We-Provide-Censorship-Compliance?OpenDocument

Once received, these enforcement agencies may investigate the matter, and then submit the material to the Classification Office for consideration.

Alternatively, you may wish to contact the Classification Office directly, to seek leave for the material to be submitted for classification. Through this process, a book can be classified as unrestricted, restricted or banned. You can learn more about this process on the Classification Office's website (www.classificationoffice.govt.nz/public/inquiries-and-complaints-about-classification/how-to-get-something-classified).

We have also considered your queries as to whether this is something security agencies, such as the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) and the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) have considered. Upon consultation, we believe the availability of such material is not itself a role or function of our security agencies.

The objectives of the NZSIS and GCSB are to contribute to the national security of New Zealand; the international relations and well-being of New Zealand; and the economic well-being of New Zealand.

- The NZSIS investigates threats to the public's safety posed by violent extremism. It investigates individuals and groups that support violent extremist organisations, or promote violent extremist ideologies, or may be planning to undertake a terrorist attack.
- The GCSB's role in domestic counter-terrorism is to provide assistance to the NZSIS and the New Zealand Police at their request. This assistance is primarily technical capabilities and access to foreign intelligence

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