



20 December 2021

[Redacted]

Ref: OIA-2021/22-0477

Dear [Redacted]

Official Information Act request relating to the National Risk Register

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 25 October 2021. You requested:

"...a list of every risk profile in the register, including the following details for each profile

- 1) The profile title*
- 2) The identity of the coordinating agency or agencies*
- 3) The date that the current profile was issued (month and year).*
- 4) The profile security classification*

I would also like to request copies of these briefings:

- 1) November 2017: "Improving the management of nationally significant risks" [document ID 4000794]*
- 2) December 2017: "National Risk Register 2018" [document ID 4015680]*
- 3) April 2018: "Cover-note in explanation of attached National Risk items" [document ID 4377343]*
- 4) June, July and August 2018: "Updates on the New Zealand National Risk Report" [document IDs 4057532, 4068687 and 4067533]*
- 5) August 2018: "Aide-Memoire: Ministerial meeting on New Zealand National Risk Report" [document ID 4077370]*
- 6) December 2018: "Managing National Security Risks" [document ID 4101239]*
- 7) January 2019: "Benefits of a publicly available national risk report" [1819NSPD/070]*
- 8) Any other briefings, dated since February this year, that deal with the topic of the National Risk Register"*

I note the time limits for responding to your request were extended by 20 working days under section 15A of the Act, to allow for further consultation to be undertaken. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

By way of background, it may be helpful for me to begin by noting that the National Risk Register is a classified document that includes a diverse range of hazards and threats across several broad domains. With regard to the first part of your request, it is necessary to withhold this information 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 9(2)(f)(iv), to "maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials", and

- section 9(2)(g)(i), to “maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty”.

I can however advise that the following are included on the Register:

- natural hazards,
- biological hazards,
- technological hazards,
- malicious threats, and
- economic crisis.

Some examples of national risks that appear on the register include Terrorism, Foreign Interference, Major Cyber Incident, Transnational Organised Crime, Volcanic Activity, Pests, and Pandemic.

With regard to the documents you requested, it is necessary to withhold these in full under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to “maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials”, and
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to “maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty”.

With regard to part 8 of your request, for “[a]ny other briefings, dated since February this year, that deal with the topic of the National Risk Register”, I have taken the scope of this part of your request to be for Ministerial briefings that substantially relate to the National Risk Register. One document was identified as in scope of your request, however it is necessary at this time to withhold this document in its entirety under sections 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, as outlined above.

In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

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**