



23 June 2022



Ref: OIA-2021/22-1241

Dear 

Official Information Act request relating to the convoy, protest and occupation of Parliament

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request of 30 March 2022, transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) for response on 14 April 2022. You requested:

“... any internal communications, briefings, reports or communication relating to the convoy, protest and occupation of Parliament, sent or received by DPMC. This includes any material generated ahead of the start of the protest flagging up any risks or warnings.”

We clarified the request with you on 21 April 2022 to exclude generic emails to DPMC staff regarding security and working arrangements during the occupation.

On 13 May 2022, we wrote to you extending the time limit for response by 20 working days, to 20 June 2022. The additional time was needed to complete consultation before a final decision was made on your request. I am now in a position to respond.

We have not included in this response emails circulating links or extracts from media articles relating to the Parliament occupation and protest. These articles are publicly available, and we did not believe this was the information you were seeking. Please advise if this is not the case. Further, we have taken the scope of your request to be for information prepared directly relating to the convoy and subsequent activity on the Parliament grounds in February – March 2022. Accordingly, we have taken the timeframe of material in scope of your request to be that prepared between late January and 30 March 2022.

Information Released

Identified as relevant to your request were some documents that largely covered matters out of scope of your request but contained some relevant information. These extracts have been provided as separate document in **Appendix A**.

Some information has been withheld, as marked, under the following sections of the Act:

- section 6(a), as disclosure would be likely to prejudice the security, defence or international relations of New Zealand; and
- section 9(2)(ba)(ii), to prevent damage to the public interest, where information was provided in confidence.

Also released to you as **Appendix B** is an email trail of 2 March 2022 titled “*Re: URGENT - update # 2*” received by DPMC and other agencies working on the Parliamentary complex from the Parliamentary Service. Some names and contact details have been withheld under section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals.

Information to be made publicly available

There is some information relevant to your request identified in the COVID-19 Response Weekly Reports dated 4 March 2022 and 25 March 2022. These weekly reports are in the process of being proactively released on the Unite Against COVID-19 website. These reports will be made publicly available at: covid19.govt.nz/about-our-covid-19-response/proactive-releases/reviews-and-audits, where previous reports have been published. To the extent your request is for the information contained within these reports, it is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Information Withheld in Full

The Independent Police Conduct Authority (IPCA) has commenced an independent investigation and review of the policing of the occupation on and around Parliament grounds in Wellington during February and March 2022. Whilst this Review is underway information that relates to the issues under investigation and expected to be the subject of examination by the IPCA is being withheld to allow the Review to be completed.

Documents relating to a meeting of the Officials' Committee for Domestic and External Security Coordination (ODESC) are in scope of this part of your request. This includes meeting documents and a briefing. The information in scope is about matters relevant to the IPCA Review. Accordingly, this information has been withheld in full under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act to prevent damage to the public interest, where information was provided in confidence. In addition, due to the role DPMC holds in chairing ODESC, identified as potentially relevant to your request were administrative emails and messages, such as meeting arrangements, room bookings, timings and other arrangements. We have interpreted your request to not be seeking information of this nature. Please advise if this is not the case.

In addition, some email correspondence and messages have been identified that have information relevant to your request but also covering matters relevant to the IPCA Review, with some security summaries and the free and frank expression of advice. These have been withheld in full under the following sections of the Act:

- section 6(a), as outlined above
- section 9(2)(ba)(ii), as outlined above; and
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

There is some relevant information in two reports received by DPMC that are about disinformation and include information about the Parliament protest and occupation. This information has been withheld in full under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act, to protect the supply of similar information in the future, where information was provided in confidence.

Because of the context, identified as relevant to your request was a report from DPMC's National Security Group of 9 March 2022 “*Policy Levers for Addressing Mis/disinformation*”. This report is withheld in full under the following sections of the Act:

- section 6(a), as outlined above;

- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials; and
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

We can confirm that there was some material produced by the National Assessments Bureau (NAB) identified as relevant to your request. This material contains information that, if released, would be likely to prejudice the international relations and national security of New Zealand. Accordingly, this information is withheld in full under section 6(a) of the Act, as outlined above.

There are some briefings provided by the DPMC Policy Advisory Group to the Prime Minister that have information relevant to your request. These briefings are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence in order to support her in her role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. These briefings are withheld in their entirety under the following sections of the Act:

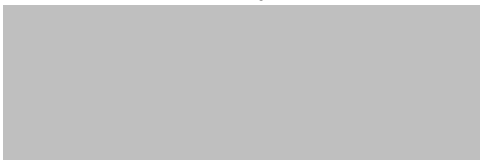
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), as outlined above; and
- section 9(2)(g)(i), as outlined above.

Where information has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, no public interest in releasing the withheld information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

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



Nicky Eaton
**Acting Deputy Chief Executive
National Security Group**

Extracts of information relevant to the convoy, protest and occupation of Parliament

Request dated 30 March 2022 and transferred to DPMC on 14 April 2022.

"...can I please request any internal communications, briefings, reports or communication relating to the convoy, protest and occupation of Parliament, sent or received by DPMC. This includes any material generated ahead of the start of the protest flagging up any risks or warnings."

[On 21 April 2022 request clarified to exclude generic emails to DPMC staff regarding security and working arrangements during the occupation]

Below are the extracts relevant to the request from documents largely containing information out-of-scope of the request. Some information has been withheld, as marked, under the following sections of the Act:

- section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of New Zealand.
- section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act, to prevent damage to the public interest, where information was provided in confidence.

1. Aide Memoire

In addition, in her capacity as the Minister for National Security and Intelligence, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern received an aide-memoire ahead of a regular meeting with senior officials in February 2022.

Extract:

Parliament Protest

7. As you know, ODESC met on 17 February 2022 at the request of New Zealand Police (the lead agency), regarding the ongoing protest activity at Parliament. The NSG continues to monitor the ongoing Parliament and related protest activity across New Zealand to identify system risks and opportunities for further co-ordination across agencies. ^{s9(2)(ba)(ii)}

2. DPMC Fortnightly Report to Minister for National Security and Intelligence (3/03/2022)

This is a fortnightly report received by the Prime Minister in her capacity as the Minister for National Security and Intelligence. The relevant extract (including where information in scope has been withheld) is copied below:

Extract:

National Security System activation: Russia/Ukraine conflict and Parliament protest

- The National Security System remains activated in response to both the situation in Ukraine and the protest at Parliament.

3. Internal DPMC Email on other countries removing COVID-19 restrictions (7/03/2022)

Email was circulated by the COVID-19 Group in DPMC with subject "*Countries That Have Removed COVID-19 Restrictions in the wake of Omicron*". The email circulated a note from the COVID-19 Group Insight and Reporting team. This note looked at a selection of countries that have or will be removing all COVID-19 restrictions in the wake of Omicron and included a small amount of information about the occupation of Parliament.

Extract:

Protests around mandates have also been increasing in size, volatility and impact, with the recent Freedom Convoy protest occupying Parliament grounds for several weeks, and several other protests occurring nation-wide.

4. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board Meeting Papers (8/03/2022)

Documents prepared for meeting on 8 March 2022 of COVID-19 Chief Executives. The relevant information identified was in a footnote referring to a media article and one paragraph from one of the papers for the meeting.

Extracts:

Footnote

⁴ Stuff.co.nz. Parliament protest: New poll shows 30 per cent of Kiwis support anti-mandate protest <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/127808790/parliament-protest-new-poll-shows-30-per-cent-of-kiwisupport-antimandate-protest> Accessed 2nd March 2022.

From Paper "System Assurance Framework Update: Current Priority System Risks and Issues"

6. (ii) *The social cohesion and its impact on the public confidence and social licence is naturally front-of-mind with the ongoing Parliament Protest and other occupations across the country. Clarity of strategic direction, transparency of decision-making, and clear communications are all important for social cohesion, which in turn, is important for the successful management of COVID-19.*

5. DPMC Fortnightly Report to Minister for National Security and Intelligence (30/03/2022)

This is a fortnightly report received by the Prime Minister in her capacity as the Minister for National Security and Intelligence. The relevant extract (including where information in scope has been withheld) is copied below:

Extract:

Security and Intelligence Board: update

The Security and Intelligence Board (SIB) met on 23 March and discussed:....
o *reflections and insights on the March protest,*

From: Briget Ridden s9(2)(a) @dia.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 8:20:33 PM
To: Rafael Gonzalez-Montero s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a)
 s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; Chris Penk <chris.penk@parliament.govt.nz>; Jan Logie MP
 <Jan.Logie@parliament.govt.nz>; Brooke van Velden <Brooke.vanVelden@parliament.govt.nz>;
 Debbie Ngarewa-Packer <Debbie.Ngarewa-Packer@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; Raj Nahna
 s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a)
 s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a)
 s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>;
 s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a)
 s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; Trevor Mallard MP
 <Trevor.Mallard@parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>;
 Anneliese Parkin s9(2)(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: URGENT - update # 2

Thanks Raf

As just discussed, we anticipated this would be the approach/ the sentiment was shared with our people late this afternoon. Safety first, they expect to work from home. Tomorrow we will have a very small number on site to support critical functions (as we did today) but that is all. Thank you for all of your help/ your teams efforts.
 Briget

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From: Rafael Gonzalez-Montero s9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 7:44:40 PM
To: s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; Chris Penk <chris.penk@parliament.govt.nz>; Jan Logie

MP <Jan.Logie@parliament.govt.nz>; Brooke van Velden
<Brooke.vanVelden@parliament.govt.nz>; Debbie Ngarewa-Packer <Debbie.Ngarewa-Packer@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>; Raj Nahna
s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>; s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>;
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s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>; s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>;
s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>; Trevor Mallard MP
<Trevor.Mallard@parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>; Briget
Ridden <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@dia.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@dia.govt.nz)>; Anneliese Parkin <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@dpmc.govt.nz)>

Subject: RE: URGENT - update # 2

Good evening

Further update for you. The Police has asked that staff and minimum number of members to come on precinct tomorrow while the finish the operation

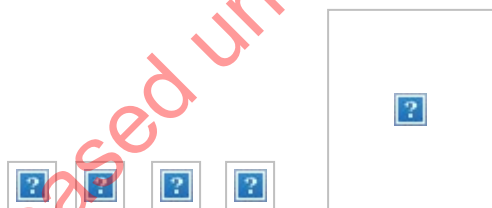
Briget, Anneliese and David, do you prefer that I send a complex-wide email like this morning? Or would you rather send your own comms to your people?

Thank you.

Raf

Rafael Gonzalez-Montero
Chief Executive

DDI s9(2)(a)
M s9(2)(a)
E s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>
Parliamentary Service Te Rāfonga Whare Pāremata
Private Bag 18041, Wellington 6160, New Zealand
www.parliament.nz



From: Rafael Gonzalez-Montero

Sent: Wednesday, 2 March 2022 4:45 p.m.

To: s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>; Chris Penk <chris.penk@parliament.govt.nz>; Jan Logie
<Jan.Logie@parliament.govt.nz>; Brooke van Velden <Brooke.vanVelden@parliament.govt.nz>;
Debbie Ngarewa-Packer <Debbie.Ngarewa-Packer@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>; Raj Nahna
s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>; s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>;
s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>; s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>;
s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>; s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>;

s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a)
s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; Rt Hon Trevor Mallard
<Trevor.Mallard@parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; Briget
Ridden s9(2)(a) @dia.govt.nz>; Anneliese Parkin s9(2)(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: URGENT - update

Good afternoon

As you can see, the Police operation is still taking place. I would have liked to provide an update for people to have some certainty about coming to the precinct tomorrow, but this is not possible at this stage.

We will continue to communicate with the Police and when given the all clear I will let you know.

Thank you.

Raf

Rafael Gonzalez-Montero
Chief Executive

DDI s9(2)(a)
M s9(2)(a)
E s9(2)(a)

Parliamentary Service Te Rātonga Whare Pāremāta
Private Bag 18041, Wellington 6160, New Zealand
www.parliament.nz



From: Rafael Gonzalez-Montero

Sent: Wednesday, 2 March 2022 6:26 a.m.

To: s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; Chris Penk <chris.penk@parliament.govt.nz>; Jan Logie
<Jan.Logie@parliament.govt.nz>; Brooke van Velden <Brooke.vanVelden@parliament.govt.nz>;
Debbie Ngarewa-Packer <Debbie.Ngarewa-Packer@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; Raj Nahna

s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a)

@parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>;

s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; Rt Hon Trevor Mallard

<Trevor.Mallard@parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; Briget

Ridden s9(2)(a) @dia.govt.nz>; Anneliese Parkin s9(2)(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>

Subject: URGENT

Good morning

It would be the Police's preference for the buildings to be as empty as possible by 4pm at the

latest. I would be grateful for your cooperation with this.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Cheers

Raf

Rafael Gonzalez-Montero
Chief Executive

DDI s9(2)(a)
M s9(2)(a)
E s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

Parliamentary Service Te Rātonga Whare Pāremata
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www.parliament.nz



From: Rafael Gonzalez-Montero

Sent: Tuesday, 8 February 2022 9:19 p.m.

To: s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz; Chris Penk <chris.penk@parliament.govt.nz>; Jan Logie <Jan.Logie@parliament.govt.nz>; Brooke van Velden <Brooke.vanVelden@parliament.govt.nz>; Debbie Ngarewa-Packer <Debbie.Ngarewa-Packer@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz; Raj Nahna s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz; s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz; s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

Subject: FW: Protest at Parliament - update

Importance: High

Good evening

The email below has been sent to all complex in a few minutes. We would appreciate if you could please forward this to your members and staff who are on precinct tonight.

In addition we recommend:

- As Molesworth Street and Bowen Street (towards Lambton Quay) and Lambton Quay are blocked, please drive through The Terrace or up Bowen Street towards Tinakori Rd.
- We recommend members do not use branded vehicles.
- Taxis pick up and drop off will be through Museum Street or Ballantrae Place only. Please provide these instructions to taxi companies.
- We recommend that nobody walks by foot through blocked streets.

I would also appreciate if whips could let me know **asap tonight** how many members need to walk or leave across the street (e.g. Kate Sheppard apartments).

Thanks

Raf

Rafael Gonzalez-Montero
Chief Executive

DDI s9(2)(a)
M s9(2)(a)
E s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

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Private Bag 18041, Wellington 6160, New Zealand
www.parliament.nz



Kia ora koutou,

Sorry for the late email. The additional security measures announced today will continue tomorrow to ensure the safety and security of everyone.

These include:

- Police will be present during the protest.
- The forecourt will be restricted to Police and Parliamentary Security only during the protest. A designated area will be set up for the media.
- Access to the buildings for cardholders is via the rear of Parliament (the external door by the gym in Executive Wing and the external door by the press gallery in Parliament House) and the Bowen House linkway.
- The main entrance, the rubber door and the Parliamentary Library (main door) will be locked for the duration of the protest.
- Visitors are directed to access the building through secure deliveries at the rear of Parliament, and their hosts will be contacted to come collect them. You are encouraged to hold meetings virtually if you can.
- There will be no vehicle access on the forecourt as all gates will be locked. We recommend vehicles use Museum Street and Ballantrae Place entrances.
- The dock way in EW and PH will be closed from 9:00am, and we will not be accepting any deliveries.
- If you are on precinct during the protest, please do not loiter near windows particularly in

areas like the level 1 bridge between the Executive Wing and Parliament House, or the black and white tiles.

- If you are able to work from home, please do so.

Remember to remain alert, stay safe, keep an active watch for any tailgaters, and report any suspicious behaviour to security immediately.

If you have any concerns during the protest, please call s9(2)(a) (security control room) or s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a)

Rafael Gonzalez-Montero
Chief Executive

DDI s9(2)(a)
M s9(2)(a)
E s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

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