



22 December 2022

[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2022/23-0177

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request relating to Documents related to the ODESC, NCMC and NSG responses to the Christchurch terror attacks

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 27 September 2022. You requested:

I would like to make a request for documents relating to the ODESC, National Crisis Management Centre and National Security Group responses to the 2019 Christchurch terror attacks and memorial service (Operation Deans and Operation Unity). I would like to request copies of:

ONE: The agenda, minutes and action points for all ODESC meetings for Operations Deans and Unity, dated between 15 March and 3 April 2019.

TWO: A list of all documents submitted or tabled at these meetings, including the title, agency of origin and date submitted or tabled.

THREE: All ODESC notes prepared for the Prime Minister on the topics of Operations Deans and Unity, dated between 15 March and 3 April 2019.

FOUR: The agenda, minutes and action points for all meetings of the Operations Deans and Unity ODESC Watch Groups, dated 15 March to 3 April 2019.

FIVE: All reports submitted to ODESC by the Operations Deans and Unity ODESC Watch Groups, dated 15 March to 3 April 2019.

SIX: All National Crisis Management Centre situation reports and intelligence summaries produced for Operations Deans and Unity, dated 15 March to 3 April 2019.

SEVEN: The report-back of the National Security Group to the Security Intelligence Board and Prime Minister on the topic of the implementation of the recommendations of the Post Operation Deans National Security System Review (June 2019), which was scheduled to be completed by the end of 2019.”

As you are aware, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) extended the time limits for responding to your request by 40 working days under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), making the due date for communicating a decision on your request 21 December 2022

The DPMC is unable to confirm a decision to you on or before 21 December 2022. We have identified approximately 85 documents within scope of your request, which require extensive Ministerial and agency consultation. Additionally, we consider it is necessary to take a

community centred approach and ensure that the community (affected whānau, survivors and witnesses) is advised of the material in scope of your request before DPMC can make a decision on it. Once these steps have been taken, DPMC will be in a position to communicate a decision on your request.

I apologise for the delay in responding to your request. Please be assured that steps are being taken to learn from this particular case, and we are actively seeking to improve our process and enhance our responses.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review this response under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Tony Lynch
Deputy Chief Executive
National Security Group