



13 July 2023



Ref: OIA-2022/23-1073

Dear 

Official Information Act request relating to media requests

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 30 June 2023. You requested:

Under the Official Information Act 1982, I wish to seek the following information:

- The number of media requests that the Chief Executive (or equivalent position) of your organisation has received, each year for the past six years, and the number of media request accepted, each year for the past six years.*
- The number of media requests that members of the Executive team (or Board, only in instances where an Executive team does not exist) of your organisation have received, each year for the past six years, and the number of media request accepted, each year for the past six years.*

Media requests are generally directed through the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's (DPMC) communications staff and do not go directly to, nor are they usually addressed to, the Chief Executive or members of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT). Media requests are also not accepted or declined. They are either responded to or referred to the appropriate agency or office.

DPMC has received a high volume of media requests through our channels in the six-year period. This includes our core business units, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), as a departmental agency hosted by DPMC, as well as units established for a fixed period, such as the COVID-19 Group and the Health Transition Unit.

For some units, the volumes have been particularly high. The COVID-19 Group, which has now been disestablished, received and responded to hundreds of media requests during the pandemic.

In order to provide the requested material, DPMC would need to manually identify, collate and assess material across our core business units, NEMA and fixed-period units to determine media queries.

We consider the extensive searches required to meet your request amounts to substantial research and collation. Therefore, I am declining your request under the following section of the Act:

- Section 18(f), that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research

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



Clare Ward
Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement