



28 November 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2023/24-0283

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request relating to advice regarding risks or concerns around misinformation on X (formerly known as Twitter)

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 10 November 2023. You requested:

All advice, briefings, reports, memos, emails, and communications received or sent, regarding risk or concerns around misinformation on X (formerly known as Twitter), between 1 October 2022 and 29 October 2023.

The Government is seeking to support a “whole-of-society” approach to build understanding and resilience against the harms of disinformation, that can be led primarily by those outside government. This approach recognises the need to maintain an open internet and uphold the right to freedom of expression.

The initiative aims to help build a better understanding of New Zealand’s online information landscape, the impacts of disinformation, and to help all New Zealanders better understand the challenges of disinformation.

Initiatives include convening a civil society-led group to scope longer-term work, support for capacity-building and community resilience, as well as commissioning public research and analysis into the impacts of disinformation. These initiatives consider disinformation on online platforms, including X (formerly known as Twitter). As X forms part of the social media landscape, all of the work that DPMC is involved in that concerns disinformation on social media could concern content that is posted on X. This would capture a large volume of emails, correspondence, and advice, which would all need to be assessed in relation to your request.

Therefore, your request is declined under section 18(f) of the Act: the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

The aforementioned public research is underway, and some of that reporting (which includes analysis of content posted to X) can be found at the following URL:

<https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/strengthening-resilience-disinformation/public-research-and-insights-disinformation>

This reporting was commissioned from two suppliers – Hate and Extremism Insights Aotearoa, and Logically. More research is planned to be published in due course, from both suppliers.

To learn about DPMC's wider work programme, please refer to the following URL:

<https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/strengthening-resilience-disinformation>

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



Julian Grey
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National Security Group