



15 May 2025



Ref: OIA-2024/25-0865

Tēnā koe 

Official Information Act request relating to misinformation, disinformation, and propaganda

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 5 May 2025.
You requested:

"[1] Which department deals with, investigates disinformation, misinformation, and propaganda information?"

A lot of money goes into creating this information, non-state sponsored and state-sponsored organisations are involved, as per the OSINT community/journalist.

[2] What is done to counter these threats and are there any nonprofits who work with NZ on these matters?

[3] Also, who manages the media in New Zealand as there are many examples I can provide where they have caused fear in the public with the way that they report matters. E.g., saying that there is a tsunami, but then when you click into the link, you either have to pay to view the content or end up finding out it isn't even for New Zealand."

For ease of reference, I have labelled the parts of your request.

Part One – Which department deals with, investigates disinformation, misinformation, and propaganda information?

In Aotearoa New Zealand, no single government department is solely responsible for investigating disinformation, misinformation, or propaganda. Individual government agencies and statutory bodies are responsible for addressing misinformation and disinformation that relate to their specific portfolios.

As described in New Zealand's National Security Strategy, disinformation is one of New Zealand's core National Security issues and a [National Security Intelligence Priority](#). The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) coordinates New Zealand's response to the national security implications of disinformation. You can read more about this on our website:

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

Part Two – What is done to counter these threats, and are there any non-profits who work with New Zealand on these matters?

Over 2023 – 2024, DPMC coordinated a series of initiatives to strengthen resilience to disinformation in New Zealand. This included delivering, in partnership with InternetNZ, a fund for community-based initiatives to strengthen Aotearoa New Zealand's resilience to disinformation. You can find out more about the purpose and outcomes of funding here: <https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/strengthening-resilience-disinformation/fund-community-based-initiatives-strengthen-aotearoas-resilience-disinformation>.

Part Three – Who manages the media in New Zealand, and how is misleading reporting addressed?

Aotearoa New Zealand has an independent media sector, meaning no government agency directly "manages" or controls media outlets. However, there are standards and oversight mechanisms in place. Individuals may raise concerns with the relevant oversight body. Such bodies include:

- **The NZ Media Council**, which is a self-regulated body that oversees print and online content and ensures media organisations adhere to professional ethical standards. Complaints about misleading reporting can be lodged with the Media Council: [Complaints Process - NZ Media Council](#)
- **The Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA)**, a regulated body that oversees broadcast media (TV and radio) standards, including fairness and accuracy of reporting: [Broadcasting Standards Authority](#)

You may also be interested in the "media reform" work that is being led by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage: [Media Reform: Modernising regulation and content funding arrangements for New Zealand | Manatū Taonga | Ministry for Culture & Heritage](#)

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.

Nāku noa, na,



Bridget White
Executive Director
National Security Group