



26 June 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2024/25-0977

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official Information Act request relating to notification of search warrant for Michael Forbes

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 11 June 2025. You requested:

- *“...any information that may have been sent to the Ministers of Social Development, Police, Internal Affairs or to the Prime Minister’s Department regarding or alerting the above ministers to the fact that police executed a search warrant on a government-issued phone used by press secretary Michael Forbes.*
- *Were any ministers alerted to this incident under the “no surprises” policy?”*

I note you also sent your request directly to the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), Police, and the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). Accordingly, we have interpreted your request as being for information held by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). MSD, Police, and DIA will respond to you directly with any information they may hold.

When DPMC learned of what had taken place we contacted the Prime Minister’s Office. We were informed that the Prime Minister and his office had already been made aware of what had occurred by the media.

For completeness a search was undertaken of our Information Management Systems, and nothing was identified as relevant to your request. Accordingly, it is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

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,

[REDACTED]

Clare Ward
Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement