



17 July 2025



Reference: OIA-2024/25-0993

Tēnā koe ,

Official Information Act request relating to Starlink

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 19 June 2025. You requested:

“access to any documents held by the Department of the Prime Minister’s Office that refer to, discuss, or analyse cybersecurity risks, foreign interference, or sovereignty risks associated with Starlink (or Starlink Internet Services).

This includes, but is not limited to:

**Internal briefings, memos or reports;*

**Correspondence between departmental staff or with other government departments or ministers;*

**Risk assessments or security evaluations;*

**Submissions to or from the New Zealand government regarding Starlink’s operation in New Zealand.*

Please restrict the date range of this request to 1 January 2023 to the date of this application.”

We have interpreted your request as being for any information held by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) and/or the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), a departmental agency hosted by DPMC, which refers to, discusses, or analyses cybersecurity risks, foreign interference, and/or sovereignty risks associated with “Starlink” or “Starlink Internet Services”. The timeframe for your request is 1 January 2023 – 19 June 2025.

Background information

NEMA has a focused operational interest in the use of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite technologies to support emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. These technologies offer supplementary connectivity options in scenarios where traditional infrastructure may be unavailable, such as during large-scale natural disasters or in remote locations.

While NEMA has accessed Starlink’s services to support its own operational needs and to facilitate access for other government agencies, this does not represent an endorsement of one provider over another. Rather, it reflects the availability of an off-the-shelf solution that met immediate emergency management requirements during, and immediately following the North Island Severe Weather Events (NISWE).

NEMA continues to explore the broader utility of LEO connectivity and is actively considering how best to support diverse technology solutions across the Emergency Management Sector through existing and emerging providers.

Information to be refused

I can advise that NEMA has carried out a keyword search of its electronic databases for information relevant to Starlink, which has returned a very high volume of results. The majority of these results are emails and are likely to be operational or administrative in nature, addressing topics such as device setup, procurement, invoicing, deployment planning, and inter-agency support. However, as these emails are not centrally tagged or organised by specific subject matter, further collation or review to characterise the documents would require substantial manual effort.

Having assessed the extent of this work, I have decided to refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. I considered consulting with you to refine or reframe your request but could not identify any adjustments that would enable us to respond more readily. I also considered extending the timeframe for response and/or fixing a charge as per sections 18A(1) and 18B of the Act, but determined that neither would remove the reason for refusal.

For completeness, I note that DPMC has not identified any information it holds that is relevant to your request.

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 DPMC'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, nā,



Sarah Holland
Chief Advisor to Chief Executive