



23 July 2025



Ref: OIA-2024/25-1018

Tēnā koe ,

Official Information Act request relating to Correspondence and Meetings with Dayenu and Alternative Jewish Voices

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 30 June 2025. You requested:

"1. All correspondence (including but not limited to letters, emails, and meeting minutes) between your agency and any representatives or members of the following organisations:

- *Dayenu: New Zealand Jews Against the Occupation*
- *Alternative Jewish Voices*

2. Details of any meetings (formal or informal), whether in-person or virtual, held between your agency and representatives or members of either of the above organisations, including:

- *Date and time of meetings*
- *Attendees (names and roles)*
- *Agendas and/or discussion topics*
- *Any documents, notes, or presentations shared or produced as a result*

This request covers the time period from 1 January 2023 to the present."

Information to be released

A small amount of material has been identified as relevant to your request (Items 1-3 in the attached). This is released to you, subject to some information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Act, as applicable:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

Information to be refused

The open letter referred to in the email from AJV of 4 December 2023 is publicly available here: [Ceasefire Now: An Open Letter to Jewish Institutions and Community - Pantograph Punch](#). Therefore, this information is refused under section 18(d) of the Act.

As concerns the parts of your request related to Dayenu: New Zealand Jews Against the Occupation, I can advise that DPMC has carried out a search of its electronic databases for relevant information, which returned no information in scope of your request. As such, this

part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the requested information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found. For the period requested, I can also confirm that DPMC has not met with representatives of Dayenu.

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, nā,



Sean Bolton
Executive Director
Risk and Systems Governance Group

From: [Darren Brunk \[NFMA\]](#)
To: s 9(2)(a)
Cc: [Rachel Sutherland \[DPMC\]](#); [Shane Collins \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: RE: updates from Alternative Jewish Voices
Date: Tuesday, 12 December 2023 10:50:36 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora and shalom s 9(2)(a) I'd like to wish you s 9(2)(a) all the best wishes for this Hanukkah season. I hope that in these extremely difficult times that you and your whānau are able to find some time to mark and celebrate the season.

Thank you for sharing s 9(2)(a) online article and the petition s 9(2)(a) below. My sincere thanks to you as well for our recent meeting. I've shared the points you raised with other agency representatives for their awareness and consideration. As mentioned at the meeting, it is very helpful and important for us to hear AJV's perspectives on the current situation in Israel and the OPT, as well as to understand what different members of the community are experiencing here in New Zealand.

I'm always available if you'd like to connect and discuss any concerns. I'm also happy to help facilitate contact with other agencies if that is ever of use. I'll be away from the office from December 21 to end of January, but Shane will be available as a point of contact.

Ngā manaakitanga and Hanukkah sameach,

Darren

Darren Brunk, PhD [he/him]

Principal Advisor | Kaitohutohu Mātāmua

Community Engagement and March 15 Royal Commission of Inquiry Response

Risk and System Governance Group

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet | Te Tari o te Pirimia me te Komiti Matua

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

From: s 9(2)(a)

Sent: Monday, 4 December 2023 5:59 pm

To: Darren Brunk [DPMC]; Rachel Sutherland [DPMC]; Shane Collins [DPMC]; s 9(2)(a)

Subject: updates from Alternative Jewish Voices

Kia ora koutou,

We would like to update our contention that the NZ Jewish Council cannot be regarded as a sufficient or representative voice of the Jewish community. We have used only public sources to demonstrate the the structure underpinning the council is simply hollow. Please find our thoughts here:

<https://ajv.org.nz/2023/12/04/who-represents-the-jewish-community/>

As well, we will shortly post an open letter from 80+ Jewish signatories, calling for our institutions to speak differently to current events and to the community. You'll find the open letter's text here, with the signatory list to go live soon.

s 18(d)

We greatly appreciate your time to review these and reflect on the need for a diversity of voices to represent our community.

Ngā mihi nui,

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

Sh'ma Koleinu - [Alternative Jewish Voices](#) of Aotearoa NZ

[International Jewish Collective for Justice in Palestine](#)



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Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: [Darren Brunk \[NFMA\]](#)
To: [Andy George \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: [Rachel Sutherland \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: FW: Alternative Jewish Voices
Date: Tuesday, 21 November 2023 9:31:38 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Mōrena, Andy,

For your reference as well, quick summary from AJV meeting yesterday. Note they are not at this time seeking any wider agency engagement.

D.

s 9(2)(g)(i) meeting with Alternative Jewish Voices today s 9(2)(a)

. Some top lines:

- Rachel and I met with them to talk about the CT hui, and what a 'safe space' where they would feel comfortable participating would look like.
- s 9(2)(a) shared s 9(2)(a) perspectives – s 9(2)(a) s 9(2)(g)(i)
 emphasised the need to create a space where dissenting views are aired and heard and where clear 'parameters of truth' are established so mis and dis information can be challenged. From an organisational perspective, s 9(2)(a) requested that no one group should be allowed to serve as the 'exclusive voice' for a community, and that multiple perspectives and opportunities for disagreement and dissent were essential.
- They would be keen to participate in a hui that has a positive, future-focus that provides opportunities to build solidarity networks and supportive alliances across different faith and ethnic communities to address the specific threats and challenges faced in each community.
- They were receptive to the steps organisers have undertaken to try and prevent and manage conflict at the hui but s 9(2)(a) stressed that they would hope to be a part of an event that is more participant-driven, rather than presentations – a 'roundtable of disagreement' with multiple voices.
- s 9(2)(a) also suggested s 9(2)(a) as one who might also be interested to attend, as well as organisations Dayenu s 9(2)(a) and Justice 4 Palestine.
- We agreed to keep in touch around the hui and possible roles for AJV beyond participation (possibly on a panel).
- I invited AJV to reach out in the event they were interested to share their views and concerns with a wider group of agency representatives. No immediate request was made by them.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Darren

Darren Brunk, PhD [[he / him / ia](#)]

Principal Policy Advisor | Kaitohutohu Mātāmua

Ko tō tatou kāinga tēnei (Royal Commission of Inquiry) Response Team

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet | Te Tari o te Pirimia me te Komiti Matua

M: +64 s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a)
To: [Darren Brunk \[NEMA\]](#); [Rachel Sutherland \[DPMC\]](#); [Shane Collins \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: He Whenua Taurikura hui - meeting with Alternative Jewish Voices
Date: Thursday, 16 November 2023 3:01:30 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Kia ora Darren

We would like to meet in-person if that suit you. We will be at Defence House at the appointed time.

Hei konā mai

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Darren Brunk [DPMC]

Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:55 PM

To: Rachel Sutherland [DPMC]; Shane Collins [DPMC]; s 9(2)(a)

Subject: He Whenua Taurikura hui - meeting with Alternative Jewish Voices

When: Monday, 20 November 2023 1:30 pm-2:30 pm (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.

Where: Defence House, 34 Bowen Street, Pipitea (room TBD) / Teams

Kia ora, s 9(2)(a)

Thanks for confirming Monday November 20 at 1:30 pm to meet with us to discuss the He Whenua Taurikura hui in December. I can meet you in the Defence House lobby at 1:25, if you would like to attend in person. A Teams link is also provided, if this is more convenient.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Darren

Darren Brunk, PhD [[he / him / ia](#)]

Principal Policy Advisor | Kaitohutohu Mātāmua

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Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet | Te Tari o te Pirimia me te Komiti Matua

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