

From: [NZ Terrorist Designations](#)
To: [National Security Board Mailbox \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: [Chris Bourne \[DPMC\]](#); [Brian Hallinan \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: FW: Designations papers - May NSB.
Date: Tuesday, 6 May 2025 9:35:00 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[NSB Paper May 2025 - Terrorism Designations FINAL DRAFT.docx](#)
[Statement of Case to Designate The Base as a terrorist Entity FINAL DRAFT.docx](#)
[Statement of Case to Renew Designation of Proud Boys.pdf](#)

Morning,

Please find attached NZP's papers for the May NSB meeting. Also, please note the information below – we'll attempt to get the finalised The Base paper to you asap.

s6(a)

From: NZ Terrorist Designations
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 7:38 AM
To: Chris.Bourne@dpmc.govt.nz; Jessica.Palmer@dpmc.govt.nz; Brian.Hallinan@dpmc.govt.nz
Cc: s6(a)
Subject: Designations papers - May NSB.

Morning Chris,

Please find attached the relevant documents for the NSB item 'Designations Renewals'. Apologies for these not being in last night, I was waiting for a last-minute email from Crown Law on The Base renewal.

Unfortunately, that email hasn't come through so I'll need to chase it up this morning. The good news is that this only affects the Crown Law section of the SOC at the very end. Once we have a couple of clarifications I'll forward the completed document as a PDF.

Finally, please note the RESTRICTED classification of the Proud Boys SOC.

Regards,

s6(a)

Lead Intelligence Analyst National Security
Security Intelligence
National Intelligence Centre, New Zealand Police
PNHQ, Molesworth St, Wellington

Cell s9(2)(a) DDI s9(2)
E s9(2)(a)

[Final versions of attachments to this email included in proactive release of key documents to be published on the DPMC website at: www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications]



WARNING

The information contained in this email message is intended for the addressee only and may contain privileged information. It may also be subject to the provisions of section 50 of the Policing Act 2008, which creates an offence to have unlawful possession of Police property. If you are not the intended recipient of this message or have received this message in error, you must not peruse, use, distribute or copy this message or any of its contents. Also note, the views expressed in this message may not necessarily reflect those of the New Zealand Police. If you have received this message in error, please email or telephone the sender immediately.

Proactively Released

From: [NZ Terrorist Designations](#)
To: [National Security Board Mailbox \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: s6(a)
Subject: Final version of NSB paper
Date: Thursday, 8 May 2025 10:20:06 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[NSB Paper May 2025 - Terrorism Designations FINAL DRAFT - MFAT edits.docx](#)

Morning NSB Secretariat,

Apologies, but MFAT snuck in some small wording changes to our item.

If you would please use the attached at the final draft. And if you please acknowledge receipt it would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,

s6(a)

Lead Analyst National Security
Security Intelligence
National Intelligence Centre, New Zealand Police
PNHQ, Molesworth St, Wellington

Cell s9(2)(a) DDI s9(2)
E s9(2)(a)



WARNING

The information contained in this email message is intended for the addressee only and may contain privileged information. It may also be subject to the provisions of section 50 of the Policing Act 2008, which creates an offence to have unlawful possession of Police property. If you are not the intended recipient of this message or have received this message in error, you must not peruse, use, distribute or copy this message or any of its contents. Also note, the views expressed in this message may not necessarily reflect those of the New Zealand Police. If you have received this message in error, please email or telephone the sender immediately.

[Final version of attachment to this email included in proactive release of key documents to be published on the DPMC website at: www.dPMC.govt.nz/publications]

From: [NZ Terrorist Designations](#)
To: [National Security Board Mailbox \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: s6(a)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Final version of NSB paper
Date: Friday, 9 May 2025 12:00:01 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Item 3

Thanks Jane,

Much appreciated – I note though, did we neglect an NSB coversheet? I had thought that these were dispensed with?

s6(a)

From: National Security Board [DPMC] s9(2)(k)
Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 11:42 AM
To: NZ Terrorist Designations s9(2)(k) National Security Board [DPMC]
s9(2)(k)
Cc: s6(a)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Final version of NSB paper

Hi s6(a)

No worries. I checked with Chris Borne to be sure, but as there is no extra coversheet (it is to be developed in future)- I have simplified the recs one step further:

It is recommended that the National Security Board (NSB):

- a. **agree** to recommend to the Prime Minister that he renew the designation of The Base and the American Proud Boys as terrorist entities under section 35(2) of the TSA;
- b. **agree** that on behalf of the NSB, the Chair provide a briefing note to the Prime Minister for him to make a final decision on the renewal of the terrorist entity designation of The Base and the American Proud Boys prior to 20 June 2025.
- c. **forward** the attached assessments for The Base and the American Proud Boys to the Prime Minister for consideration.

It goes without saying that a cover paper would be developed for the PM and it would likely be in the form of the briefing note in rec b.

I also removed NSPD next to DPMC at the end, as it was extra detail beyond any other agency.

I'll make sure you get a final copy for your records today. A nice clear paper.

Thank you.

Jane

From: NZ Terrorist Designations s9(2)(k) [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 9 May 2025 11:26 am
To: National Security Board [DPMC] s9(2)(k) [redacted]
Cc: s6(a) [redacted]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Final version of NSB paper

Morning Jane,

Thanks for the acknowledgement! Let us know if we're required for anything else.

s6(a) [redacted]

From: National Security Board [DPMC] s9(2)(k) [redacted]
Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 10:40 AM
To: NZ Terrorist Designations s9(2)(k) [redacted] National Security Board [DPMC] s9(2)(k) [redacted]
Cc: s6(a) [redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Final version of NSB paper

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the New Zealand Police Network. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and are assured that the content is safe.

~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Good morning, s6(a) [redacted]

Thank you for your latest e-mail. I have found three e-mails that will make up your papers and will get these circulated to NSOG today. Well done on the cover paper- it looks clear and crisp. I will do a final check today before they go out.

[Not in Scope] [redacted]

Ngā mihi nui
Jane

Jane Neilson
Principal Advisor, Governance Directorate
Risk and Systems and Governance Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet | Te Tari o te Pirimia me te Komiti Matua

M: s9(2)(a) [redacted]

E: jane.neilson@dpmc.govt.nz

Proactively Released

From: [National Security Board Mailbox \[DPMC\]](#)
To: [@NSB Senior Officials Group](#)
Cc: [NZ Terrorist Designations](#); [National Security Board Mailbox \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: NSB papers for 21 May- joint papers to come
Date: Friday, 9 May 2025 3:02:54 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[RESTRICTED 21 May NSB with NHB draft agenda\(5002208.2\).pdf](#)
[Not in Scope]
[NSB Paper May 2025 - Terrorism Designations FINAL\(5011917.2\).pdf](#)
[Statement of Case to Renew Designation of The Base\(5013532.1\).pdf](#)
[Statement of Case to Renew Designation of Proud Boys\(5013537.1\).pdf](#)

~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora koutou

Please find attached ahead of the Joint SOG meeting next Wednesday, the NSB papers for the 21 May Board meeting. Please note the papers for the joint Board component of the meeting will be available early next week – likely Tuesday.

In this e-mail, the following papers are attached:

- The Joint Board agenda (you already have a copy but attached again for easy reference).
[Not in Scope]
- Item 6 – Including a cover paper on TDWG advice on terrorist designations, and two statements of case.

The team will compile PDF packs ahead of the 21 May meeting next week once all papers are available. Wishing you all a good weekend once it soon arrives.

Ngā mihi nui
Jane

Jane Neilson
Principal Advisor, Governance Directorate
Risk and Systems and Governance Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet | Te Tari o te Pirimia me te Komiti Matua

M: s9(2)(a)

E: jane.neilson@dpmc.govt.nz



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

Joint NHB/NSB Annotated Agenda

Date	21 May 2025	Time	9.00-11.00am	
Location	Level 10, Defence House			
Members	DPMC (Chair) DIA FENZ NZSIS MoD	MBIE MFAT MfE GCSB	MoH MoT MPI TSY	NEMA NZDF NZ Police NZCS
Presenting	[Not in Scope]			

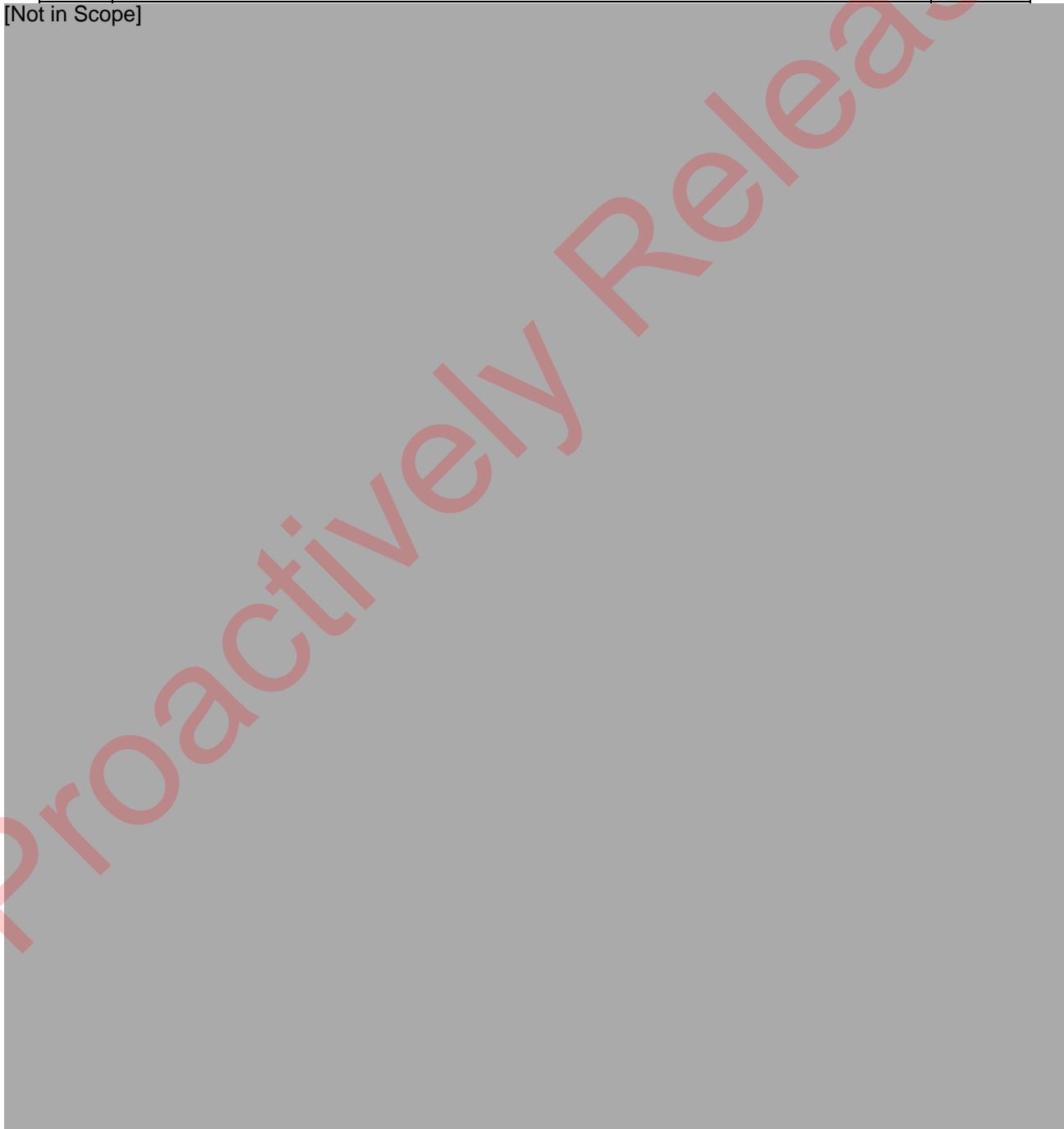
[Not in Scope]

National Security Board **Annotated** Agenda

Date	21 May 2025	Time	11.15am-1.00pm	
Location	Level 4, Defence House			
Members	DPMC (Chair) NZSIS TSY	MBIE MFAT GCSB	NZCS MoT MPI	MoD NZDF NZ Police
Presenting	[Not in Scope]			

Item	Issue	Lead
-------------	--------------	-------------

[Not in Scope]



6	<p>Terrorist Designations 12:00-12:15pm (15 minutes)</p> <p>Renewal of Terrorist Designations: The Base and the American Proud Boys (Paper)</p> <p><i>Recommendations from the paper for reference:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Agree to recommend to the Prime Minister that he renew the designation of The Base and the American Proud Boys as terrorist entities under section 35(2) of the TSA.</i>• <i>Agree that on behalf of the NSB, the Chair provide a briefing note to the Prime Minister for him to make a final decision on the renewal of the terrorist entity designation of The Base and the American Proud Boys prior to 20 June 2025.</i>• <i>Forward the attached assessments for The Base and the American Proud Boys to the Prime Minister for consideration.</i> <p>Thank TDWG agencies for the clear advice on these two renewals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following the Senior Officials group meeting, we anticipate this will be a short discussion today to confirm the TDWG advice.• The cases clearly meet the statutory test for designation.• Today, our role is to confirm whether the Prime Minister should designate. <p>Invite Richard Chambers to provide additional opening remarks.</p> <p><i>[Space for Chair's notes]</i></p> <p><i>[Return to confirm recommendations at the end of discussion]</i></p>	NZP
---	--	-----

[Not in Scope]



--	--	--

[Close meeting by 12:30pm]

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2025 12:21 pm
To: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Cc: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Subject: RE: Proud Boys

Hi s9(2)(a)

So sorry – yes, proposed amendment below:

“As you know, we do not comment on matters of national security. However, for your information, officials will provide advice in due course as per standard process for renewals.”

The team has advised that the Attorney-General doesn’t get consulted on renewals, only new designations.

You may wish to include reference to an outline of the process, which is available on the Police website:
[terrorist-designations-process-legal-framework-paper-28-08-2024.pdf](#)

Cheers,
s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2025 12:20 PM
To: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Subject: RE: Proud Boys

Hey s9(2)(a) – any progress on this?

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Sent: Monday, 19 May 2025 4:08 PM
To: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Cc: Finn Stichbury s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Subject: Re: Proud Boys

Hi s9(2)(a)

I would maybe add something like “as is standard procedure set out in the Terrorist designations legislation” - do I have time to quickly run this past DPMC or do you have a quick turnaround deadline?

Cheers,
s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 4:05:58 PM

To: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Cc: Finn Stichbury s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Subject: Proud Boys

Hi there

Are you happy with this response to s9(2)(a)

Hi s9(2)(a)

From a spokesperson for the Prime Minister:

“As you know, we do not comment on matters of security. However, for your information, DPMC will advise the Prime Minister on whether to renew the designation as a terrorist entity or allow it to expire. The Prime Minister will write to the Attorney-General to consult with her as part of his decision-making process however the Attorney’s response will likely be legally privileged.”

Thanks, s9(2)(a)



s9(2)(a)

Office of Rt Hon Christopher Luxon

Prime Minister
Minister for National Security and Intelligence
Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

M: s9(2)(a)
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 19 May 2025 9:05 AM
To: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Cc: s9(2)(a): Attorney-General's office
Subject: terror list/proud boys

Kia ora,

The Proud Boys are designated as terrorist entity in New Zealand

<https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/personal-community/counterterrorism/designated-entities/lists-associated-with-resolution-1373>

As I understand it this is a three year designation which expires in June

Will the PM, who has to confer with the AG in these rulings, extend this and continue to list the Proud Boys as a terrorist entity (and what consideration has been given to the current relationship of this group to the US President Donald Trump)?

An interview with either the PM or Minister Collins is first option – but a written statement would suffice in lieu of that.

Thanks!

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2025 2:11 pm
To: Chris Bourne [DPMC]; s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Subject: RE: Upcoming designations advice for the PM's decision

Hi Chris,

The PM will be away week of 16 June so if you stick with the timeline below it should be fine (to s9(2) for the bag no later than Thursday 5 June). ()

Cheers,

s9(2)(a)
[Redacted signature]

From: Chris Bourne [DPMC] <Chris.Bourne@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2025 12:57 PM
To: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Subject: Upcoming designations advice for the PM's decision

~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Hi both

Subject to NSB tomorrow my intent is to get the renewal advice for The Base and the American Proud Boys through the working group and sign off either late next week or very early the week after (1st week of June). The renewals must be done by 20 June. Will the PM be available over that period?

Cheers
Chris

Chris Bourne
Principal Policy Advisor, Security & Intelligence Policy
National Security Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

P s9(2)(a)
E chris.bourne@dpmc.govt.nz



From: [Chris Bourne \[DPMC\]](#)
To: [Cherie Blithe \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: RE: Redesignation of the base and American proud boys
Date: Tuesday, 10 June 2025 9:22:12 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks Cherie

Hopefully we will have a decision by then!

s9(2)(g)(i)

Chris

From: Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 9:02 AM
To: Chris Bourne [DPMC] <Chris.Bourne@dpmc.govt.nz>; Bridget White [DPMC] <Bridget.White@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kevin Moar [DPMC] <Kevin.Moar@dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: Brian Hallinan [DPMC] <Brian.Hallinan@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Redesignation of the base and American proud boys

And to add to that, we have reactive comms out with agencies for agreement. This is on the basis that designation continues. Should have finalised version by the end of the week.

Ngā mihi
Cherie

From: Chris Bourne [DPMC] <Chris.Bourne@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 10 June 2025 8:37 am
To: Bridget White [DPMC] <Bridget.White@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kevin Moar [DPMC] <Kevin.Moar@dpmc.govt.nz>; Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: Brian Hallinan [DPMC] <Brian.Hallinan@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: Redesignation of the base and American proud boys

~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Good morning,

For information. I spoke to ^{s9(2)(a)} yesterday and there has been no progress through PMO.

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

I will keep working with s9(2)(a): PM's Office

I am also getting a letter ready for designation of the Base only.

Chris

Chris Bourne

Principal Policy Advisor, Security & Intelligence Policy
National Security Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

P s9(2)(a)

E chris.bourne@dpmc.govt.nz



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

Proactively Released

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office

Sent: Thursday, 29 May 2025 3:37 PM

To: s9(2)(a): PM's Office

Subject: FW: Terrorist Designations: Renewal of The Base and the American Proud Boys as terrorist entities

Attachments: [Report Terrorist Designations Renewal of The Base and the American Proud Boys as terrorist entities ED signed\(5022794.1\).pdf](#)

[Attachment F Draft letter ISC\(5020651.1\).docx](#)

[Attachment E Draft letter to the Commissioner of Police\(5020650.1\).docx](#)

[Attachment D Statement of Case to Renew Designation of the American Proud Boys\(5020640.1\).pdf](#)

[Attachment C Statement of Case to Renew Designation of The Base\(5020638.1\).pdf](#)

[Attachments to this email included in proactive release of key documents to be published on the DPMC website at: www.dPMC.govt.nz/publications]

~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s9(2)(a)

As mentioned, one of the MFA private secs has told me that s9(2)(a) would like to contact you to discuss an issue regarding the attached briefing. I'm sending you the electronic version, so you have any context you need – I'll give you the hard copies tomorrow. s6(a) and the briefing covers risks and mitigations.

The process for recommending designation renewals involves a number of agencies, including MFAT. The Terrorist Designation Working Group makes recommendations to the National Security Board about renewals. National Security Board decides on recommendations to be made to the Prime Minister, who is responsible under the Terrorism Suppression Act for the decision.

As discussed, the reason I think this needs to go in PM's bag this weekend is his busy agenda over the next two weeks ahead of overseas travel from the 17th. To meet the requirements of the Terrorism Suppression Act, his decision on the renewals is needed before 20 June.

Thanks

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
To: [Ben King \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: [Kathrine Wigley \[DPMC\]](#); [Gill Lockhart \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: Proud Boys terrorist designation info for Friday
Date: Tuesday, 10 June 2025 1:27:14 pm

Hi Ben,

s9(2)(a) has indicated that the preference is for you to grab the PM after the [Not in Scope] briefing in terms of a time on Friday to talk about the renewal of the terrorist designations of the Proud Boys and the Base.

To support you in this, I have asked NSG for a rundown on the consequences of these renewals not being signed by 17 June (below – FYI, this date is slightly earlier to the one previously advised by Police as they made an error that has now been corrected). One thing to note is that the letter for the PM to sign is for both the Proud Boys and the Base s9(2)(g)(i)

Should the redesignation not occur by 17 June, this will mean the following:

- **The designation automatically expires.**
- **Should we then wish to redesignate the full process would have to be followed as if they were a new designation.**
 - This includes a higher threshold for the Prime Minister’s decision – “Prime Minister *believes* on reasonable grounds” versus “Prime Minister *is satisfied* that there are still reasonable grounds”.
 - To meet this threshold agencies would have to rework the Statement of Case.

s6(a)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Cheers,
s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)



Authorised by Rt. Hon Christopher Luxon MP ~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Proactively Released

From: [Cherie Blithe \[DPMC\]](#)
To: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Cc: [Brian Hallinan \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: Terrorist designation reactive talking points
Date: Monday, 16 June 2025 8:44:00 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[The Base and American Proud Boys Designation Reactive Talking Points 06 2025\(5024470.2\).docx](#)

~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Mōrena s9(2)(a) and happy Matariki!

Attached are some reactive talking points for renewal of the Base and American Proud Boys terrorist designations. These have been put together with MFAT, NZSIS and NZ Police.

Ngā mihi
Cherie

Cherie Blithe
Principal Advisor, Communications
National Security Group
Risk and Systems Governance Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(a)
E cherie.blithe@dpmc.govt.nz



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

The information contained in this email message is for the attention of the intended recipient only and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please destroy the email and notify the sender immediately.

Designations: American Proud Boys and The Base

Background:

Two previously designated entites, The Base and the American Proud Boys will have their terrorist designations renewed by 18 June 2025.

The Base is also currently designated by partners including Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

The American Proud Boys is also currently designated by Canada.

No proactive communications will be released. The NZ Police website will be updated with the renewal date. A statement of case for each entity will be published in the New Zealand Gazette (potentially with redactions of Restricted information).

General information on the terrorist designation process can be found on the New Zealand Police website.

Reactive talking points:

s9(2)(g)(i)

Specific Q&A [if raised]:

s9(2)(g)(i)

Proactively Released

Proactively Released

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Sent: Thursday, 19 June 2025 8:57 pm
To: s6(a) Ben King
Cc: Kathrine Wigley [DPMC]; Gill Lockhart [DPMC]
Subject: Fw: Terrorist Designations Update

Hi Ben,

Please see below the message I have sent to PMO in relation to the terrorist designations.

Cheers,

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 8:55:46 PM
To: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Cc: Cherie Blithe <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>; Ben King <ben.king@dpmc.govt.nz>; Gill Lockhart [DPMC] <Gill.Lockhart@dpmc.govt.nz>; Brendan Gage [DPMC] <Brendan.Gage@dpmc.govt.nz>; Bridget White [DPMC] <bridget.white@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: Terrorist Designations Update

Evening everyone,

As some of you are aware, this week the PM redesignated The Base as a terrorist entity. Ben made the decision not to recommend redesignating the other entity up for renewal (the American Proud Boys) and instead for officials to undertake the full process to consider designating them. For your awareness, the redesignation of The Base as a terrorist entity has been Gazetted <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2025-go3352>.

While this being on the Gazette website means that journalists who have previously indicated their interest in the redesignation of the Proud Boys may notice that a redesignation notice for them has not been Gazetted, the edits to the Police website to note the redesignation of The Base and the lapsed designation of the American Proud Boys has not happened yet. We will work with Police to determine timings for that on Monday, and ensure comms lines are prepared and shared with you/the team with the PM in advance.

Any questions please let me know.

Cheers,

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Sent: Thursday, 19 June 2025 9:01 pm
To: Kathrine Wigley [DPMC]; Cherie Blithe [DPMC]
Cc: Bridget White [DPMC]; Kevin Moar [DPMC]; Brendan Gage [DPMC]
Subject: Re: Draft reactive lines for review

Hi everyone,

Confirming we've let Ben and PMO know that The Base has been Gazetted
<https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2025-go3352>

Cherie and Kevin - can we please talk to Police asap on Monday and ensure we're all aligned on timing for the website update (ie that we wait until we're ready), particularly to ensure that we've been able to provide comms lines to PMO and to the people with the PM (and MFA, Police Minister, and Min Collins as well) in advance.

s9(2)(a)

From: Kathrine Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 7:47:29 PM
To: Cherie Blithe <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Cc: Bridget White [DPMC] <Bridget.White@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kevin Moar [DPMC] <Kevin.Moar@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Draft reactive lines for review

Hi

Two things from Ben:

- what's the rationale for the timing of gazetting? Can the notice be held until the PMs return?
- the lines noting that "the PM has asked for" aren't correct – this was from the CE, not the PM

Thanks
Kathrine

From: Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 12:04 PM
To: s9(2)(a): PM's Office; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: Bridget White [DPMC] <Bridget.White@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kevin Moar [DPMC] <Kevin.Moar@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Draft reactive lines for review

Yes I can share with MFAT, Police and NZIC once finalised.

Ngā mihi
Cherie

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Sent: Thursday, 19 June 2025 11:55 am

To: Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: Bridget White [DPMC] <Bridget.White@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kevin Moar [DPMC] <Kevin.Moar@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Draft reactive lines for review

Thanks Cherie, these look fine to me. Once Kathrine has confirmed we can share with Ben/PMO Press/Mark Talbot etc. Will you share with MFAT and Police? I can also pass to Minister of Police and MFA's offices.

Cheers,

s9(2)(a)

From: Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 19 June 2025 10:45 AM
To: Kathrine Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a)
s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Cc: Bridget White [DPMC] <Bridget.White@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kevin Moar [DPMC] <Kevin.Moar@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: Draft reactive lines for review
Importance: High

~~IN CONFIDENCE~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora Kathrine and s9(2)(a)

Below are some draft lines re the recent terrorist re-designation and expiry. Welcome your review of this. As there was a journalist asking about this designation in May, we expect they will follow up.

The gazette notice has been submitted, and will likely be published within 48 hours of now. The gazette only mentions the renewal of The Base, and does not reference The Proud Boys (as no gazette-able action is required).

Re media approach, we suggest the PM answer questions about the designation and the Terrorist Designations Working Group (DPMC or Police) respond to questions about the process.

FYI MFAT are keen to have these lines also.

Reactive talking points

The Base

The Base has been redesigned as a terrorist entity for a further three years.

The American Proud Boys

The American Proud Boys terrorist designation has expired.

[If required] I have [The PM has] asked for further detailed information on the American Proud Boys, which the Terrorist Designations Working Group will provide in due course.

Q&A

Did the PM make the decision not to re-designate?

Yes. I have [The PM has] asked for further detailed information on the American Proud Boys, which the Terrorist Designations Working Group will provide in due course.

Was a Statement of Case done? Will it be released?

Yes. I have [The PM has] asked for further detailed information on the American Proud Boys, which the Terrorist Designations Working Group will provide in due course.

Did NSB recommend that the group are designated?

NSB provided advice following the usual process.

Does that mean people can provide support for the American Proud Boys?

The American Proud Boys terrorist designation has expired.

Ngā mihi

Cherie

Cherie Blithe

Principal Advisor, Communications

National Security Group

Risk and Systems Governance Group

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(a)

E cherie.blithe@dpmc.govt.nz



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

The information contained in this email message is for the attention of the intended recipient only and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please destroy the email and notify the sender immediately.

The information contained in this email message is for the attention of the intended recipient only and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please destroy the email and notify the sender immediately.

The information contained in this email message is for the attention of the intended recipient only and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please destroy the email and notify the sender immediately.

From: [^Police: Richard Chambers](#)
To: s6(a) [Ben King](#)
Cc: [Ben King \[DPMC\]](#); [Gill Lockhart \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proud Boys designation SEC=IN CONFIDENCE
Date: Saturday, 21 June 2025 2:37:16 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Ok, sounds good.

R

Richard Chambers
Commissioner



From: KING, Ben (CEO) s6(a)
Sent: Saturday, June 21, 2025 9:35 AM
To: CHAMBERS, Richard <Richard.Chambers@police.govt.nz>
Cc: Ben King [DPMC] <Ben.King@dpmc.govt.nz>; Gill Lockhart [DPMC] <Gill.Lockhart@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proud Boys designation SEC=IN CONFIDENCE

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the New Zealand Police Network. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and are assured that the content is safe.

IN-CONFIDENCE UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Richard. I'll ask Gill to find 10 mins for us on the phone sometime early in the week.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

s6(a)

From: Gill Lockhart [DPMC] <Gill.Lockhart@dpmc.govt.nz>
Date: Friday, 20 Jun 2025 at 2:29 AM
To: KING, Ben (CEO) s6(a)
Subject: FW: Proud Boys designation

IN-CONFIDENCE

From: CHAMBERS, Richard <Richard.Chambers@police.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 20 June 2025 7:04 am
To: Ben King [DPMC] <Ben.King@dpmc.govt.nz>

Cc: ^Police: Richard Chambers <Richard.Chambers@police.govt.nz>

Subject: Proud Boys designation

Morning Ben.

Let me know when you have a moment to discuss Proud Boys designation.

R

Richard Chambers
Commissioner



WARNING

The information contained in this email message is intended for the addressee only and may contain privileged information. It may also be subject to the provisions of section 50 of the Policing Act 2008, which creates an offence to have unlawful possession of Police property. If you are not the intended recipient of this message or have received this message in error, you must not peruse, use, distribute or copy this message or any of its contents. Also note, the views expressed in this message may not necessarily reflect those of the New Zealand Police. If you have received this message in error, please email or telephone the sender immediately

The information contained in this email message is for the attention of the intended recipient only and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please destroy the email and notify the sender immediately.

"The information contained in this email message is intended only for the addressee and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Ministry. It may be legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient you must not use, disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it as this may be unlawful. If you have received this message in error, please email or telephone the sender immediately."

From: [Matt Torbit \[DPMC\]](#)
To: [Finn Stichbury](#); [PMO-Press](#)
Cc: s9(2)(a): PM's Office [Kathrine Wigley \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: Designations
Date: Monday, 23 June 2025 4:44:00 pm

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Finn – to update on this. We advise referring RNZ to DPMC Media to answer the question, and below are draft points for the PM, if required, this week in Europe.

- In the case of terrorist designations, I have made a number of decisions based on recommendations from DPMC.
- I suggest you contact DPMC for further comment about specific designations, including the American Proud Boys.

Below are the draft lines we will look to provide media, if approached about re-designation:

The American Proud Boys terrorist designation has expired. The American Proud Boys remains on the radar of the Terrorism Designation Working Group, and officials will consider what new information is available to support a decision around whether there are reasonable grounds to designate it in accordance with the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002.

Section 22 of TSA requires that the entity is either knowingly carrying out, or knowingly participating in the carrying out, of an act of terrorism. Designating any group as a terrorist entity is a significant step, and it is important [any recommendation to do so] is done in accordance with our legislation.

From: [DPMC Media \[DPMC\]](#)
To: [PMO-Press](#); s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Cc: s9(2)(a): PM's Office [Kathrine Wigley \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: Response to media - American Proud Boys
Date: Thursday, 26 June 2025 1:49:00 pm

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora Finn – below is the final wording of the response we will shortly provide media s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a) re: APB designation - we will provide these lines if subsequently approached by other media.

Matt

The American Proud Boys terrorist designation has expired. The entity remains on the radar of the Terrorism Designation Working Group, and in due course officials will consider any new information that arises to support a decision around whether there are reasonable grounds to designate it in accordance with the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002.

Section 22 of TSA requires that the entity is either knowingly carrying out, or knowingly participating in the carrying out, of an act of terrorism. Designating any group as a terrorist entity is a significant step, and it is important any recommendation to do so is in accordance with our legislation.

Matt

From: [Matt Torbit \[DPMC\]](#)
To: [Media](#); [Cherie Blithe \[DPMC\]](#); [^Police: Juli Clausen](#); [MEDIA](#)
Cc: [Blair Teesdale-Moore](#); [DPMC Media \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: RE: s9(2)(a) re American Proud Boys terrorist designation
Date: Thursday, 26 June 2025 1:50:00 pm

Hi folks – to round this out (and adding MFAT Media), below is what we are providing RNZ and Stuff (and any others) shortly.

Kia ora,

Please find below a response, attributable to a DPMC spokesperson:

The American Proud Boys terrorist designation has expired. The entity remains on the radar of the Terrorism Designation Working Group, and in due course officials will consider any new information that arises to support a decision around whether there are reasonable grounds to designate it in accordance with the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002.

Section 22 of TSA requires that the entity is either knowingly carrying out, or knowingly participating in the carrying out, of an act of terrorism. Designating any group as a terrorist entity is a significant step, and it is important any recommendation to do so is in accordance with our legislation.

Ngā mihi,

DPMC Communications

From: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 26 June 2025 8:49 am
To: Matt Torbit [DPMC] <Matt.Torbit@dpmc.govt.nz>; Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>; ^Police: Juli Clausen <Juli.Clausen@police.govt.nz>; Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Cc: Blair Teesdale-Moore <Blair.Teesdale-Moore@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: s9(2)(a) re American Proud Boys terrorist designation

Thanks all,

No questions received from s9(2)(a) by NZIC at this stage.

(I was speaking to s9(2)(a) on another matter yesterday but she did not raise this issue)

Cheers,

s6(a)

From: Matt Torbit [DPMC] <Matt.Torbit@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 June 2025 6:13 PM
To: Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>; ^Police: Juli Clausen <Juli.Clausen@police.govt.nz>; s6(a) <[REDACTED]@nzic.govt.nz>; Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Cc: Blair Teesdale-Moore <Blair.Teesdale-Moore@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: s9(2)(a) re American Proud Boys terrorist designation

Hi all – and CCing inNZIC Comms (I think s6(a) is still away).

PMO have forwarded two media enquiries to us to answer (RNZ and Stuff) and we will look to go back to media tomorrow. I'll circulate our final response beforehand.

Juli – let's chat in the morning.

Matt

From: Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 June 2025 5:50 pm
To: ^Police: Juli Clausen <Juli.Clausen@police.govt.nz>; s6(a) <[REDACTED]@nzic.govt.nz>
Cc: Matt Torbit [DPMC] <Matt.Torbit@dpmc.govt.nz>; Blair Teesdale-Moore <Blair.Teesdale-Moore@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: s9(2)(a) re American Proud Boys terrorist designation

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Juli, including Matt and Blair as I'm currently on a course. Matt, did the PM provide a response earlier this week?

Ngā mihi
Cherie

From: CLAUSEN, Juli <Juli.Clausen@police.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 June 2025 5:36 pm
To: Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) <[REDACTED]@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: s9(2)(a) re American Proud Boys terrorist designation

Hi Cherie and s6(a)

Just letting you know we've got some questions from s9(2)(a) too.
I'll let you know where we land with a response.

Juli

From: Media <Media@police.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 5:20 PM

To: CLAUSEN, Juli <Juli.Clausen@police.govt.nz>
Subject: FYI: s9(2)(a) re American Proud Boys terrorist designation

Hi boss, this has just landed from s9(2)(a)

Would we comment on terrorism designations?

Jeff

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 4:43 PM
To: Media <Media@police.govt.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] American Proud Boys terrorist designation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the New Zealand Police Network. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and are assured that the content is safe.

Kia ora,

I am looking into the [expiry of The American Proud Boys](#) designation as a terrorist entity, under the TSA.

As I understand it, the designation (which was made in June 2022) expires after three years, unless renewed by the Prime Minister.


I have put questions to the DPMC about the reasons for the designation being allowed to expire but I would also be keen for Police input, given the extensive analysis provided for the [statement of case](#) made in 2022.

- what is the Police position on the fact that the APB's terrorist designation has now expired?
- do NZ Police have any remaining concerns about the APB?
- are NZ Police still of the view that APB is dangerous and/or capable of carrying out a terrorist act?
- are Police aware of any New Zealand individuals involved in the Proud Boys movement?
- if so, are any concerns held about their activity?

Any further observations would be welcome, very happy to discuss.

If possible, could I please have a response by COB tomorrow.

Ngā mihi,
s9(2)(a)



Level 7 Cider Building,
4 Williamson Ave,
Grey Lynn, Auckland 1021

Watch: [Circuit](#)

|

The information contained in this e-mail message and any accompanying files is or may be confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, dissemination, reliance, forwarding, printing or copying of this e-mail or any attached files is unauthorised. This e-mail is subject to copyright. No part of it should be reproduced, adapted or communicated without the written consent of the copyright owner. If you have received this e-mail in error please advise the sender immediately by return e-mail or telephone and delete all copies. Stuff Limited does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any information contained in this e-mail or attached files. Internet communications are not secure, therefore Stuff Limited does not accept legal responsibility for the contents of this message or attached files.

WARNING

The information contained in this email message is intended for the addressee only and may contain privileged information. It may also be subject to the provisions of section 50 of the Policing Act 2008, which creates an offence to have unlawful possession of Police property. If you are not the intended recipient of this message or have received this message in error, you must not peruse, use, distribute or copy this message or any of its contents. Also note, the views expressed in this message may not necessarily reflect those of the New Zealand Police. If you have received this message in error, please email or telephone the sender immediately

The information contained in this email message is for the attention of the intended recipient only and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please destroy the email and notify the sender immediately.

This electronic message, together with any attachments, contains information that is provided in confidence and may be subject to legal privilege. Any classification markings must be adhered to. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not peruse, disclose, disseminate, copy or use the message in any way. If you have received this message in error, please notify us immediately by return email and then destroy the original message. The New Zealand Intelligence Community (NZIC) and the departments comprising the NZIC accepts no responsibility for changes to this e-mail, or to any attachments, after its transmission from NZIC. This communication may be accessed or retained for information assurance purposes. Thank you.

From: DPMC Media [DPMC]
To: s9(2)(a) DPMC Media [DPMC]
Subject: RE: Proud Boys terrorist designation
Date: Monday, 30 June 2025 8:48:55 am

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora s9(2)(a) – absolutely:

Please find below a response, attributable to a DPMC spokesperson:

The American Proud Boys terrorist designation has expired. The entity remains on the radar of the Terrorism Designation Working Group, and in due course officials will consider any new information that arises to support a decision around whether there are reasonable grounds to designate it in accordance with the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002.

Section 22 of TSA requires that the entity is either knowingly carrying out, or knowingly participating in the carrying out, of an act of terrorism. Designating any group as a terrorist entity is a significant step, and it is important any recommendation to do so is in accordance with our legislation.

Nga mihi,

Matt
DPMC Communications

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 30 June 2025 7:07 am
To: DPMC Media [DPMC] <Media@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: Proud Boys terrorist designation

You don't often get email from s9(2)(a) [Learn why this is important](#)

Morning team,

Can I grab the statement provided to s9(2)(a) about the Proud Boys terrorist designation and any other info/context you think is helpful to know?

Any queries just ping out!

Cheers,

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Sent: Wednesday, 2 July 2025 1:10 pm
To: Amy Teague [DPMC]; Brian Hallinan [DPMC]; Chris Bourne [DPMC]; Cherie Blithe [DPMC]; Jessica Palmer [DPMC]; Anna Whiskin [DPMC]; Annabel Ritchie [DPMC]; Marama Broughton [DPMC]
Cc: Sean Bolton [DPMC]; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC]
Subject: RE: Takeaways from the APB conversation with Ben

[Not in Scope]

Proactively Released

From: Brian Hallinan [DPMC] <Brian.Hallinan@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 July 2025 7:35 am

To: Chris Bourne [DPMC] <Chris.Bourne@dpmc.govt.nz>; Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>; Jessica Palmer [DPMC] <Jessica.Palmer@dpmc.govt.nz>; Anna Whiskin [DPMC] <Anna.Whiskin@dpmc.govt.nz>; Annabel Ritchie [DPMC] <Annabel.Ritchie@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marama Broughton [DPMC] <Marama.Broughton@dpmc.govt.nz>; Amy Teague [DPMC] <Amy.Teague@dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: Sean Bolton [DPMC] <Sean.Bolton@dpmc.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Kathrine Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: Takeaways from the APB conversation with Ben

~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora koutou

On Tuesday, Sean, ^{s9(2)(a)} Kathrine and I caught up with Ben about the American Proud Boys OIA/proactive release/WPQs.

The key things we discussed, both in the meeting and in subsequent debriefs, were:

- Ben confirmed that, while the first briefing (30 May) was signed out and went to PMO, it *didn't* go to the PM.
- Ben discussed his views on the potential renewal/expiry with the PM on 16 June, and his 17 June e-mail to Bridget sets out the rationale for his advice at that conversation. A shorter version of that position was in the 23 June message to NSB.
- Ben is happy for his advice in the e-mails to be released, subject to any recommendations we have on redactions for s.6(a), 9(2)(f)(iv) or 9(2)(h) [potentially others, but I think these are the main ones]
- Ben is keen to see the draft responses to the WPQs.
- When thinking about the proactive release, as Ben's e-mail refers to the Statement of Case, I think we have to consider whether we release the SOC as it forms part of the rationale – if we *only* release the e-mail, we'll immediately get requests for the SOC.

[Not in Scope]

Brian Hallinan

Acting Director

National Security Policy Directorate
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(a)

E brian.hallinan@dpmc.govt.nz



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

The information contained in this email message is for the attention of the intended recipient only and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please destroy the email and notify the sender immediately.



RESTRICTED

National Security Board **Annotated** Agenda

Date	2 July 2025	Time	09:00 – 12:00	
Location	DH 4.48			
Members	DPMC (Chair) – Ben King DPMC – Sean Bolton MBIE – Carolyn Tremain	MoD – Brook Barrington NZDF – Tony Davies MFAT – Bede Corry	NZSIS – Andrew Hampton GCSB – Andrew Clark NZ Police – Richard Chambers	MoT – Ruth Fairhall NZCS – Christine Stevenson
Guests	NZ Police – Tania Kura <i>(Deputy Commissioner)</i>	NZCS – Jamie Bamford <i>(DCE Operations)</i>		

[Not in Scope]

Item	Issue	Lead
3.	<p>Terrorist Designations 09:25 – 09:45 (20 minutes) page 7 (paper) & page 37 (statements of case)</p> <p>Speakers for Terrorist Designations item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner of Police will lead this item • s6(a) [REDACTED] (Chair, Terrorism Designations Working Group, NZ Police) • s6(a) [REDACTED] (Member of the Terrorism Designations Working Group, NZ Police) <p><i>Deputy Police Commissioner, Tania Kura is attending for the entire meeting and will be in the room.</i></p> <p>Expiry of the American Proud Boys as a terrorist entity</p> <p>Note to Chair <i>There may be questions about the advice provided to the Prime Minister following the recommendations made at the May NSB. You may wish to outline your thinking ahead of the discussion on new designations. Suggested points are provided below if helpful:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before inviting the Commissioner to speak to the two new designations we will consider today I wanted to raise my decision following our last meeting on the American Proud Boys. • As I outlined in my 23 June email to you, on further consideration I did not believe that the Statement of Case met the test required by the Act and therefore the ‘could’ element of the Prime Minister’s decision was not as strong as initially believed. • This was specifically after reviewing the Statement of Case against the criteria outlined in s22 of the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002, which “requires us to believe, on reasonable grounds that the entity has either knowingly carried out, or knowingly participated in the carrying out of one or more terrorist acts”. • I passed this advice on to the Prime Minister, and he decided to allow the designation for the American Proud Boys to expire. • As I noted in my email to you, I have asked officials to undertake the full process to consider designating this group. I understand that this will need to consider new information over time as required by the TSA and take into account the TDWG’s current work programme. <p><i>[Space for notes]</i></p>	Police

Meeting Minutes—National Security Board

Date	2 July 2025												
Location	Level 4, Defence House	Time	9:00 am - 12:00pm										
Attendees	<p>Chair: Ben King, DPMC</p> <p>Members:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Bede Corry, MFAT</td> <td>Ruth Fairhall, MoT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carolyn Tremain, MBIE</td> <td>Sean Bolton, ED NSG, DPMC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christine Stevenson, NZCS</td> <td>Richard Chambers, NZP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tony Davies, NZDF</td> <td>Andrew Clark, GCSB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Hampton, NZSIS</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Attending for member: Tania Kura, DC, NZP</p> <p>Apologies: Ian Rennie, TSY Brook Barrington, MoD</p>			Bede Corry, MFAT	Ruth Fairhall, MoT	Carolyn Tremain, MBIE	Sean Bolton, ED NSG, DPMC	Christine Stevenson, NZCS	Richard Chambers, NZP	Tony Davies, NZDF	Andrew Clark, GCSB	Andrew Hampton, NZSIS	
Bede Corry, MFAT	Ruth Fairhall, MoT												
Carolyn Tremain, MBIE	Sean Bolton, ED NSG, DPMC												
Christine Stevenson, NZCS	Richard Chambers, NZP												
Tony Davies, NZDF	Andrew Clark, GCSB												
Andrew Hampton, NZSIS													
In attendance	<p>Jamie Bamford, DCE Operations, NZCS [Item 2] s6(a) [redacted] TDWG [Item 3] s6(a) [redacted] TDWG [Item 3] Nicky Eaton, Director National Risk, RSGG Kathrine Wigley, Chief Advisor to the CE Brian Hallinan, Acting Director, National Security Policy, NSG Megan Galloway, Senior Advisor, RSGG Greg Mitchell-Kouttab, Acting Manager, NSG Megan Birnie, Principal Advisor, NSG</p>												

[Not in Scope]

[Not in Scope]



Item 3: Terrorist Designations

[Not in Scope]



10. The Chair then noted his decision not to forward the Board's 21 May advice on the redesignation of the American Proud Boys to the Prime Minister. After further

consideration he did not believe the statutory threshold for designation had been met within the activity period, and verbally briefed the Prime Minister accordingly.

[Not in Scope]

Proactively Released

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Sent: Thursday, 10 July 2025 10:43 am
To: Cherie Blithe [DPMC]; Matt Torbit [DPMC]
Cc: Ben King [DPMC]; Gill Lockhart [DPMC]; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC]; Sean Bolton [DPMC]
Subject: RE: s9(2)(a) designation media query draft response

Good morning Cherie,

I have spoken to PMO (Finn and s9(2)(a)) and confirmed they are happy with the response below.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Cheers,

s9(2)(a)

From: Ben King [DPMC] <Ben.King@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 9 July 2025 3:40 PM
To: Cherie Blithe <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>; Gill Lockhart [DPMC] <Gill.Lockhart@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a): PM's Office >; Matt Torbit [DPMC] <Matt.Torbit@dpmc.govt.nz>; Sean Bolton [DPMC] <Sean.Bolton@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: s9(2)(a) designation media query draft response

Hi Cherie – some suggestions below in green

If you and Matt are happy, tidy it up and send it out. If you have questions, please come back to me. Sean, Nicky and Kathrine have reviewed it.

From: Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 9 July 2025 2:25 pm
To: Ben King [DPMC] <Ben.King@dpmc.govt.nz>; Gill Lockhart [DPMC] <Gill.Lockhart@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a): PM's Office > Matt Torbit [DPMC] <Matt.Torbit@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: s9(2)(a) designation media query draft response

~~IN CONFIDENCE UNCLASSIFIED~~

Hi Ben and OCE team

As you're aware we've had additional media questions from s9(2)(a), alongside her OIA questions.

We've written the draft response to align with WPQs and proactive release material, including the note from Ben. This can also feed into the PM's talking points requested for Monday. Italic text is optional.

Welcome your feedback.

Additional question from s9(2)(a) 7/7:

- was NSB's advice in relation to the Proud Boys provided to the Prime Minister to make a decision?
- if so, what decision did the Prime Minister make and is there a record of this?
- if not, and given only the Prime Minister can make the call on whether the designation should be extended, whose decision was it that he did not receive this advice, and on what basis?
- was the Prime Minister made aware of the advice in any other way including in conversation? If so can I please have notes/summaries of these conversations.

Draft response:

The CE of DPMC orally briefed the Prime Minister received an oral briefing on the American Proud Boys, and supporting information with regard to the question of designation was provided to his office.

Following a final review of the Statement of Case, the Chief Executive of DPMC recommended that the Prime Minister [not proceed with re-designating the American Proud Boys. The CE of DPMC asked officials to instead do a zero-based assessment of the Proud Boys under the TSA, considering the full base of evidence to determine whether we would recommend a designation on the evidence before us today.

Please note that DPMC is currently working to proactively release documents related to this decision. Your additional questions are therefore declined under 18(d) of the OIA.

Earlier media query 24/6:

- did the Prime Minister consider renewing this terrorist designation?
- if he did, why was it not renewed?
- if he did not consider renewing it, why was that?
- given that facts of [the case set out](#) for demonstrating The American Proud Boys meet the statutory criteria for designation as a terrorist entity appear to still be applicable, will the Prime Minister revisit the decision to let the designation expire?

Response provided 26/6:

The American Proud Boys terrorist designation has expired. The entity remains on the radar of the Terrorism Designation Working Group, and in due course officials will consider any new information that arises to support a decision around whether there are reasonable grounds to designate it in accordance with the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002.

Section 22 of TSA requires that the entity is either knowingly carrying out, or knowingly participating in the carrying out, of an act of terrorism. Designating any group as a terrorist entity is a significant step, and it is important any recommendation to do so is in accordance with our legislation.

Ngā mihi
Cherie

Cherie Blithe
Principal Advisor, Communications
National Security Group
Risk and Systems Governance Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

M [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
E cherie.blithe@dpmc.govt.nz


From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
To: Finn Stichbury; PMO-Press; s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Cc: Ben King [DPMC]; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC]; Gill Lockhart [DPMC]; DPMC Media [DPMC]; Brendan Gage [DPMC]; Sean Bolton [DPMC]
Subject: Talking points for the PM week of 14 July - Proud Boys
Date: Friday, 11 July 2025 1:17:48 pm
Attachments: [Aide Memoire for PM - Talking Points on American Proud Boys 11.07.25.docx](#)

Hi Finn,

As per our discussion, please see attached the talking points we have put in the weekend bag for the PM ahead of his Monday media engagements and QT on Tuesday in anticipation of potential questions on the Proud Boys. Any questions please let me know.

Cheers,

s9(2)(a)



Proactively Released



Aide-Mémoire

Talking Points

To: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister

Date	11/07/2025	Priority level:	High
------	------------	-----------------	------

Purpose

1. To provide you with talking points regarding the decision not to re-designate the American Proud Boys as a terrorist entity, ahead of your media engagements (morning media and Post-Cab) on Monday 14 July and for Question Time on Tuesday 15 July.

Talking points

Why were the American Proud Boys not re-designated?

- The Chief Executive of DPMC, after reviewing the Statement of Case, concluded it did not meet the tests in the Terrorism Suppression Act, and recommended I not proceed with re-designation.
- I recognise that it is a major step to designate any group as a terrorist entity.
- That's why the Chief Executive of DPMC has asked officials to instead do a new assessment of the Proud Boys under the Act, considering the full base of evidence, to determine whether we would recommend a designation on the evidence before us today.

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Why do we designate?

- Designating is one of the ways New Zealand contributes to the international campaign against terrorism. It helps to prevent and suppress the financing of, participation in, and recruitment to, terrorist entities.

Why was The Base redesignated?

- The Base was redesignated as a terrorist entity as they met the statutory criteria in the Act.

Do you know if any members of the American Proud Boys are in New Zealand?

- I haven't been advised of that.
- I'm not going to comment further, or get into hypotheticals. *[generally, we don't talk about individuals].*

s9(2)(g)(i)

Proactively Released

Proactively Released

Proactively Released

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Sent: Wednesday, 16 July 2025 2:52 pm
To: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Cc: PMO-Press; Ben King [DPMC]
Subject: RE: Proud Boys Qs on bridge run

Hi s9(2)(a)

Thank you for this – are you still comfortable that you/the PM have enough comms material from us?

Cheers,

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Sent: Wednesday, 16 July 2025 2:28 PM
To: s9(2)(a): PM's Office; Ben King <ben.king@dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
Subject: Proud Boys Qs on bridge run

Hi all,

s9(2)(a) had a few questions on the Proud Boys on bridge – transcript below.

Media

The terrorist designation working group, they recommended that the American proud boys be redesignated as a terrorist entity. Why did that not happen?

PM

Yeah, look, I don't talk too much about intelligence issues, as you well understand. I took advice from my National Security Advisor and on that basis it was decided it didn't meet the criteria. But obviously, we have a range of organizations that we continue to monitor if they're not renewed, or if they've come on or off the list.

Media

But that Terrorist Working Group...Are they not the experts, though, when it comes to terrorism?

PM

I take advice from my national security advisors, also the CEO of DPMC.

Media

What was their advice?

PM

I'm not going into that. What I'm saying is that, you know, we have a range of organizations. You've seen me designate a number of organizations. There's a process that we follow. There's some pretty strict criteria. Ultimately I take the advice from my national security advisor.



s9(2)(a)

| Office of Rt Hon Christopher Luxon

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

M: s9(2)(a)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Proactively Released