



11 August 2025



Ref: OIA-2025/26-0014

Tēnā koe 

Official Information Act request: Designation of American Proud Boys

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 15 July 2025. Your request was for (numbering added):

- [1] *Copies of all correspondence sent or received by the Chief Executive of DPMC regarding the designation of The American Proud Boys as a terrorist entity under the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002, since 30 November 2024.*
 - [2] *Copies of all correspondence sent or received by DPMC with Prime Minister's Office regarding the designation of The American Proud Boys as a terrorist entity under the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002, since 30 November 2024.*
 - [3] *Copies of all correspondence sent or received by DPMC with the New Zealand Police regarding the designation of The American Proud Boys as a terrorist entity under the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002, since 30 November 2024.*
 - [4] *Copies of all correspondence sent or received by DPMC with the National Security Board regarding the designation of The American Proud Boys as a terrorist entity under the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002, since 30 November 2024.*
 - [5] *Copies of all memos, briefings, reports or any other documents regarding the designation of The American Proud Boys as a terrorist entity under the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002, since 30 November 2024.*
- For clarity, communications refers to letters, emails, text messages or any other forms of electronic communication.*

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) has recently published all documents and correspondence held by DPMC and by the Prime Minister's office that are relevant to the decision not to renew the designation of the American Proud Boys as a terrorist entity under the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002.

This proactive release consists of two sets of documents, key documents in relation to the decision not to renew the designation and related email correspondence and documents. These are available on DPMC's website at: www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/proactive-release-designation-american-proud-boys-terrorist-entity.

All information held by DPMC since 30 November 2024 and in scope of your request has been included in the proactive release. This includes relevant correspondence with the DPMC Chief Executive, Prime Minister's office, New Zealand Police, and the National Security Board as well as briefings and advice. Also included are emails from DPMC's Chief Executive setting out the oral advice he provided to the Prime Minister.

Accordingly, I am refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act – the information requested is already publicly available. This is subject to some information being withheld as set out in the tables of documents provided with the proactive release and on the documents themselves under the following sections of the Act:

- section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand
- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion
- section 9(2)(h), to maintain legal professional privilege
- section 9(2)(k), to prevent disclosure or use for improper gain or advantage.

As noted in the proactive release, a small amount of correspondence has also been withheld in full under s9(2)(g)(i).

Where section 9 applies, 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.

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
National Security Group