



25 August 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0071

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request relating to the Beehive firearm policy

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

Today, 30 July 2025, Minister Willis made a comment to NewstalkZB (as reported here) in relation to FBI Director Kash Patel had visiting the Beehive today. She is quoted as saying there were "lots of men in suits who looked like they had guns" on level seven of the Beehive.

[1]. Under the Official Information Act, please advise what the Beehive's policy is regarding firearms in the building. Are foreign officials permitted to bring firearms on site? If so, are these firearms logged in any way? What safety measures are in place around this?

[2]. To the best of DPMC's knowledge, did foreign officials bring firearms into the Beehive today? If unknown, does policy dictate you should have known?

[3]. Please advise if Mr Patel visited the Beehive today. If so, were he or his team required to sign in as visitors to the Beehive? If so, who did Mr Patel or his team indicate they were there to see?

[4]. Please provide any correspondence DPMC sent to any Minister or other government agency about Mr Patel's visit. Please provide any correspondence DPMC received from any Minister or other government agency about Mr Patel's visit.

[5]. Please provide any internal correspondence between DPMC staff about Mr Patel's visit.

The above requests include, but are not limited to, emails, briefings, aids memoir, memos, Teams messages, WhatsApp messages, text messages, and Signal messages. This also includes information that was communicated verbally.

Apologies if you are not the correct agency to direct these questions about the Beehive towards. Please transfer that aspect of my request if there is a better suited agency

For ease of reference, I have numbered your request.

Parts 1 and 3

In relation to parts [1] and [3] of your request, any relevant information in scope of these parts of your request are held by the Speaker of House. The Speaker is not subject to the Official Information Act 1982; therefore, I refer you directly to the Speaker.

You can contact the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt Hon Gerry Brownlee on the following website: Who we are - New Zealand Parliament (www.parliament.nz).

You may also find the following news article useful: [Ministers welcome new FBI office in Wellington | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

Part 2

Part [2] of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). This is also a matter for the Speaker of the House as highlighted above.

Additional context regarding the Speaker of the House

You may also find the following information from Chapter 11 - Parliament Buildings and Grounds useful: [Chapter 11 - Parliament Buildings and Grounds - New Zealand Parliament](#)

11.2.3 Control and administration of the precincts

The Speaker is vested with the control and administration of the whole of the parliamentary precincts, on behalf of the House, whether Parliament is in session or not.^[18] The Speaker has all the powers of an occupier under the Trespass Act 1980 to warn a person to leave, or to stay off, the precincts. The Speaker may authorise a person to exercise their powers as occupier on their behalf.^[19] The Speaker's powers under the Trespass Act 1980 are generally exercised by members of parliamentary security staff under powers delegated to them by the Speaker. The Speaker may also issue rules for activities within the precincts. For example, these powers were used to implement restrictions to support public health during the COVID-19 pandemic.^[20]

Parts 4 and 5

Identified as relevant to parts [4] and [5] of your request is a relevant briefing provided by the DPMC Policy Advisory Group to the Prime Minister. This briefing was provided to the Prime Minister in confidence to support him in his role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. This briefing is withheld in its entirety under the following sections of the Act:

- s6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of New Zealand
- s6(b)(i), to protect the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government
- s9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
- s9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

Nothing else has been identified as relevant to your request.

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 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.

Yours sincerely



Janine Smith
Deputy Chief Executive, Policy and Delivery Unit