



18 August 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0082

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official Information Act request relating to visit of FBI officials and establishment of attaché office

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act (the Act), received on 4 August 2025. You requested:

“Under the Official Information Act, please supply the following:

1. *All briefings provided to support engagement with FBI officials during the week of 28 July 2025.*
2. *All reports arising from meetings with FBI officials during the week of 28 July 2025.*
3. *All written advice, briefings, reports, notes, submissions, aides-memoire, and presentations concerning the establishment of an FBI attaché office since 1 January 2025.*
4. *A list of all meetings concerning the establishment of an FBI attaché office since 1 January 2025.*
5. *Answers to the following questions:*
 - a) *Were Pacific Island countries and territories, including but not limited to Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau, consulted during consideration of the establishment of an FBI attaché office, and if so, how and on what dates?*
 - b) *What law enforcement activities in the Pacific, if any, does New Zealand currently cooperate with the FBI on?*
 - c) *What assessments, if any, have been made of the FBI attaché office?*
 - d) *When was the prospect of an FBI attaché office first raised during 2025, and by whom?*
 - e) *What public acknowledgement of the establishment of an FBI attaché office was planned as of 28 July 2025?”*

For ease of reference, I have numbered the parts of your request.

I believe the information you have requested in Parts [1] – [4] and [5e] is more closely connected to the functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS). Furthermore, information sought in Parts [5a], [5d], and part of [5c], is more closely connected to the functions of MFAT, while information relating to Part [5b] is more closely connected to the functions of the New Zealand Police (Police). I have, therefore, decided to transfer these parts of your request to the respective agencies under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act.

Each of the agencies to which I am transferring your request has the usual timeframes under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

Information held by DPMC

Identified as relevant to Part [3] of your request is a relevant briefing provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's (DPMC's) Policy Advisory Group to the Prime Minister. These briefings are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence to support him in his role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. The briefing relevant to your request is withheld in its entirety under the following sections of the Act:

- 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of New Zealand.
- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
- 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 the information.

Finally, for the aspect of Part [5c] not transferred to MFAT, a search of DPMC's information management systems has returned no additional relevant information. This is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

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



Janine Smith
Deputy Chief Executive
Policy Advisory Group