



28 August 2025



Ref: ~~OIA-2025/26-0014~~ OIA-2025/26-0110

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request: DPMC Chief Executive correspondence relating to the designation of American Proud Boys

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 11 August 2025. You requested:

“Under the Official Information Act 1982 I request copies of all correspondence including emails, letters, text messages, WhatsApp messages, Signal messages, or Microsoft teams messages, sent or received by your Chief Executive regarding the American Proud Boys since 1 January 2025.”

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) has recently published 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.

There are emails sent and received by the DPMC Chief Executive included in both sets of published documents. Accordingly, I am refusing your request as it relates to the published emails with the Chief Executive 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.

In addition, there is an email received by the DPMC Chief Executive that has been withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion. The relevant document attached in the email is included in the proactive release.

The only relevant communications with the DPMC Chief Executive not included in the proactive release are some text messages, one between the Chief Executive and the Prime Minister’s office and some others with DPMC officials. Please find screenshots of the

relevant text messages attached. As noted on the attached documents, some information included in the screenshots was not relevant to your request.

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



Alan Cassidy
Deputy Chief Executive Corporate and Chief People Officer



2 People >

Text with PM's Office:

Did you guys go through the proud boys with the PM?

B

No, Cam flagged he wanted to raise with you on the line



Proud Boys sue US government for \$100m over Jan 6 prosecutions

Leaders of the far-right group, who were convicted and later pardoned, allege their constitutional rights were violated.

www.bbc.com

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cr4z7zyl0gwo>

16:08



[Duplicate]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

12:17

5G



Texts with DPMC Officials:

2 People >

Mon, 16 Jun

Call if you can re designations

19:14

Tue, 17 Jun

Sorry I've only just seen this. Can you talk now?

07:01

I got it sorted last night. Had a long chat with Kevin. Talk today.

07:01

Wed, 25 Jun

[Not in Scope]

Tue, 17 Jun

Are you free to come over?

08:36

[Not in Scope]

Think we might get a new briefing with just one recommendation over. We've already got a letter just about one group ready to go.

08:37

Brian can come over now.

08:43



iMessage



Released under the Official Information Act 1982