



12 September 2025



Ref: OIA-2025/26-0182

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request relating to special officer to former Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 9 September 2025. You requested:

I noted,

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=5950231391668112&id=100000439311049&mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=hxmfvpZ7Qg3n7pyd#

"The Selangor State Exco, YB Tuan Ganabatirau Veraman had a fruitful meeting with Mr Fale Andrew Lesa, City Councillor of the Manurewa Local Board - Auckland City Council & Samoan Native United Nations Diplomat and the Special Officer to Jacinda Prime Minister of New Zealand at Selangor State Secretariat Building (SUK) Shah Alam. During discussions both sides covered entire breath of bilateral cooperation & held productive discussions on strong partnership between the State of Selangor and the Government of New Zealand."

I would appreciate it if you could confirm whether Mr. Andrew Lesā has, in fact, been formally appointed as a Special Officer to the Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

Additionally, could you please clarify the Prime Minister's Office's policies and procedures regarding the misrepresentation of such roles or titles, particularly in an international context?

Given the seriousness of this matter and its potential implications, I would like to take this opportunity to formally raise this as an issue of public concern.

Normally, in these circumstances, I would partially transfer your request to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon. I am however advised that you sent your request directly to his office, and I therefore refer you to the Prime Minister's response.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) does not hold any information relating to Fale Andrew Lesa, and I do not believe such information is held by another entity subject to the Act. Therefore, I have decided to refuse your request under section 18(g) of the Act.

You may wish to contact the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) here: oa@dia.govt.nz, as they retain emails from former Ministers, including Prime Ministers. You may also wish to reach out to Archives NZ here: [Contact us – Archives New Zealand](#) for any information they may hold.

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 DPMC 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