



30 January 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0419

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### Official Information Act request relating to US Operation Absolute Resolve and DPMC-US Information Sharing

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, which was received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 4 January 2026. You requested:

*"I'm requesting records concerning the United States strikes in Venezuela that took place on January 3, 2026, specifically Operation Absolute Resolve, as well as any shared information between DPMC and the United States State Department."*

On 26 January 2026, we informed you that your request is more closely connected to information held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB). Therefore, we have transferred your request to MFAT under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. I would also normally transfer your request to the GCSB however, as you have also made this request to them, I refer you to their response.

I have interpreted your request to be information held by DPMC on the topic of Operation Absolute Resolve, as well as any shared information between DPMC and the United States State Department.

Within scope of your request is some advice provided in confidence by DPMC's Policy Advisory Group to the Prime Minister, to support him in his role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet.

This advice is withheld in its entirety under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials;
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion
- section 6(a), to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

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



Janine Smith  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Policy and Delivery Unit**