



31 March 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0559



Tēnā koe ,

Official Information Act request relating to the terrorist responsible for the attacks on the Christchurch mosques

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request of 20 February 2026. Part 4 of your request was transferred by the Department of Corrections to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 5 March 2026. The transfer was for any information in scope of Part 4 of your request held by DPMC. Part 4 of your request was for:

- “4. Any advice, correspondence, or analysis held by your agency regarding:*
- (a) the fact that Mr Tarrant is an Australian citizen, and*
 - (b) whether deportation, repatriation, or transfer to Australia has been considered, discussed, or costed.”*

Part 4(b) of your request was also transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

DPMC has identified some email correspondence that is relevant to your request. Included is an email with an attached document from MFAT. This email and document are more closely connected to MFAT’s functions. We would usually transfer your request to MFAT under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, as it related to the email and document. However, as MFAT has already received this part of your request, I refer you to MFAT’s response.

There was an email identified that was sent by DPMC to other government agencies on 16 March 2019 with the subject line “Action items - workstream coordination - policy focus”. This email included a table of actions that included one item that was relevant to your request. Given how little of the information in this email is relevant to your request, I have decided to release the relevant information to you as an excerpt as per section 16(1)(e) of the Act. Please see the relevant excerpt copied below:

WHAT		WHEN	WHO
Deportation/Extradition	Options around deportation / extradition and the offender.	One pager, 4pm today	Immigration. [PAG initiated]

Please find attached two email trails held by DPMC that are relevant to your request. These are emails from 2020 between DPMC, the former Prime Minister’s office, and the former Minister of Immigration’s office, as set out in the table below:

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
Item 1	28/08/2020	FW: Tarrant deportation	Release with some information withheld under: s9(2)(a)
Item 2	31/08/2020	FW: Tarrant deportation	Release with some information withheld under: s9(2)(a) Some duplicate information.

As noted in the table above and on the documents themselves, some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of individuals.

Some duplication of one of the emails is also marked.

The only other information identified as held by DPMC and relevant to your request is in a briefing provided by DPMC's Policy Advisory Group to the then Prime Minister. These briefings are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence to support them in their role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. This briefing 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 9(2)(h), to maintain legal professional privilege.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Lisa Daniell
**Acting Deputy Chief Executive,
Policy and Delivery Unit**

From: s9(2)(a): PM's Office
To: s9(2)(a): DPMP
Subject: FW: Tarrant deportation
Date: 28 August 2020 09:36:57

FYI
s9(2)(a)

Office of the Prime Minister

DDI: s9(2)(a) | **Mobile:** s9(2)(a) | **Email:** s9(2)(a)

Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

From: s9(2)(a): office of the Minister of Immigration

Sent: Friday, 28 August 2020 9:15 AM

To: Andrew Campbell s9(2)(a): PM's Office

Cc: Raj Nahna s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a): PM's Office

s9(2)(a): office of the Minister of Immigration

Subject: Tarrant deportation

Just FYI,

Immigration NZ is starting to get correspondence asking about deporting Brenton Tarrant. INZ private sec's are checking whether there would be any legal impediment to doing that, if it were decided the Government wanted to do that.

Usually deportations are done under the Parole Act but as he is not eligible for parole, there may not be a legal option by which to deport him at this stage.

Additionally there is the point that A-G Parker made on the AM Show this morning that there is no legal mechanism (at the moment) whereby Tarrant could be made to serve his New Zealand-imposed sentence in Australia.

I'll pass on what information I get back from INZ.

s9(2)(a)

Office of Hon Kris Faafoi MP

Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Minister of Immigration, Minister of Government Digital Services, Associate Minister of Housing
Bowen House | Private Bag 18041 | Parliament Buildings | Wellington 6160 | New Zealand

DDI: s9(2)(a) | s9(2)(a)

Authorised by Hon Kris Faafoi MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011

Email disclaimer: Please note information about meetings or events related to the Minister's portfolios will be proactively released (this does not include personal or constituency matters). For each meeting in scope, the summary would list: date, time (start and finish), brief description, location, who the meeting was with, and the portfolio. If you attend a meeting with the Minister on behalf of an organisation, the name of the organisation will be released. If you are a senior staff member at an organisation, or meet with the Minister in your personal capacity, your name may also be released. The location of the meeting will be released, unless it is a private residence. The proactive release will be consistent with the provisions in the Official Information Act, including privacy considerations. Under the Privacy Act 1993 you have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. If you'd like to ask for a copy of your information, or to have it corrected, or are concerned about the release of your information in the meeting disclosure, please contact the sender. You can read more about the proactive release policy at <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases#MS>

From: s9(2)(a): office of the Minister of Immigration
To: s9(2)(a): DPMC
Subject: FW: Tarrant deportation
Date: 31 August 2020 12:40:32

Hi s9(2)(a)

Just closing a loop to check that you've been linking all this up as we discussed on Friday?

All best

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a): office of the Minister of Immigration
Sent: Friday, 28 August 2020 9:50 AM
To: s9(2)(a): office of the Minister of Immigration
Subject: FW: Tarrant deportation

Just FYI, PMO Chief Press Sec asking that we loop in with Justice and Corrections re this Mosque attacker deportation question too please.

s9(2)(a) **Office of Hon Kris Faafoi MP**

Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Minister of Immigration, Minister of Government Digital Services, Associate Minister of Housing
Bowen House | Private Bag 18041 | Parliament Buildings | Wellington 6160 | New Zealand

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From: Andrew Campbell

Sent: Friday, 28 August 2020 9:38 AM

To: s9(2)(a): office of the Minister of Immigration

s9(2)(a): PM's Office

Cc: Raj Nahna s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a): PM's Office

s9(2)(a): office of the Minister of Immigration

Subject: RE: Tarrant deportation

Thanks. Can they link in with Justice and Corrections. PM has already received advice on this point that there is no current mechanism.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

[Duplicate]

