



25 May 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0698

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request: the Prime Minister's position on the conflict in Iran

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 30 April 2026. You requested:

"Given the reporting of the emails released by Peters' office relating to the official position on the US launching its assault on Iran and how that information was presented by the emails released, I am seeking any additional documentation that can be provided outlining more clearly the prime minister's view and to support the contention that he was merely wanting to test New Zealand's position against that of Canada and Australia. This includes any record of the DPMC request the emails themselves were responding to.

I hope this can be provided promptly, but for clarity please consider this a request under the Official Information Act."

Ordinarily, I would partially transfer your request to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. As you have already sent your request to his office, I instead refer you to their forthcoming response.

The present reply covers the aspect of your request for "the DPMC request the emails themselves were responding to. We have interpreted this as relating to an email sent by a DPMC official to a number of officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Minister of Foreign Affairs office.

I have decided to withhold this email under sections 6(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand, and 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 this 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 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



Lisa Daniell
Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Policy and Delivery Unit

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