DEPARTMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

12 August 2026

Ref: OIA-2026/27-0075

[redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted],

Official Information Act request relating to Strategic preparedness

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 27 July 2026. You requested:

> *I am writing to request information under the Official Information Act 1982 concerning New Zealand's preparedness for extreme international crises, including nuclear conflict.*
>
> *I appreciate that some operational or national security information may be withheld where appropriate under the Act. My request is therefore directed primarily at policy, planning and strategic preparedness rather than operational detail.*
>
> *I would be grateful if you could provide, or advise whether the Government holds, the following information:*
>
> 1. *Any national risk assessments, policy papers or contingency planning documents that consider the consequences for New Zealand of a major nuclear conflict or nuclear winter.*
>
> 2. *Any assessments of New Zealand's resilience in relation to:*
>   - *food security;*
>   - *fuel supplies;*
>   - *electricity generation;*
>   - *essential medicines;*
>   - *communications;*
>   - *transport and supply chains;*
>   - *continuity of government.*
>
> 3. *Any planning or policy relating to the management of significant numbers of people seeking to enter New Zealand following a major international catastrophe, including (if considered) refugee movements by sea or air.*
>
> 4. *Any policy or contingency planning relating to the arrival of foreign military aircraft or naval vessels seeking refuge, humanitarian assistance, internment, or other forms of sanctuary following an international armed conflict.*
>
> 5. *Any reports or advice prepared for Ministers or Cabinet during the past ten years concerning New Zealand's preparedness for nuclear conflict, nuclear winter, or other global catastrophic risks.*
>
> 6. *Whether the Government has considered recommendations made by New Zealand researchers concerning resilience to global catastrophic risks, including publications by the Public Health Communication Centre (PHCC), and*

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whether any such recommendations have informed government policy or planning.

If any part of this request is refused under the Official Information Act, I would appreciate the specific grounds for refusal and, where possible, the release of any reasonably severable material.

If my request would be better considered by another department or agency, I would be grateful if it could be transferred in accordance with section 14 of the Official Information Act."

DPMC does not hold information relevant to your request, but I believe some information may be held by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), the Treasury (TSY), the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), the Ministry of Health (MoH), and the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). Accordingly, I have decided to transfer parts of your request under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, as it more closely connected to the functions of the agencies listed below:

- MPI – part [2] food security
- TSY – part [2] fuel supplies, electricity generation, transport and supply chains
- MBIE – part [2] resilience of fuel, electricity generation and supply chains and [3] immigration
- MoH – parts [2] essential medicines and [6] Public Health Communication Centre
- NZDF – part [3] mass illegal migration.

As this decision falls outside the usual 10 working day timeframe for transferring a request, I have extended the time limit under section 15A of the Act, by five working days. This extension was necessary because consultations with other agencies were required to make a proper decision on your request.

I have been unable to identify an appropriate agency for parts [1], [4] and [5] of your request. Therefore, these parts of your request are refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held by DPMC and I have no grounds to believe it is held by another agency or Minister of the Crown.

Information publicly available

The following publicly available response may be of interest to you as it relates to the topic of nuclear winters. It is publicly available on DPMC's website:

Item	Date	Document description	Website address
1	16 March 2026	Published response: Official Information Act request relating to New Zealand's plan if a nuclear winter were to eventuate	https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2026-05/dpmc-roia-oia-2025-26-0547.pdf

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