

Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



Ombudsman Ref: 595504
PMO Ref: NSI OIA 2022-016

Scott

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Tēnā koe Scott

Additional information released to you in response to your Official Information Act request for copies of listed national security briefings

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 3 October 2022. You requested:

“ONE: [1718NSP/033] “Foreign Interference - Brady Report and Canberra Visit” [December 2017]

TWO: [1819NSPD/064] “Our parting thoughts and wishes for the National Security System” [December 2018]

THREE: [2021NSP/014] “QAnon - Designation and Dis-information” [October 2020]

FOUR: “Russia-Ukraine Situation and National Security System Preparedness” [1 February 2022]

FIVE: “Potential Domestic Implications of Russia-Ukraine Conflict and Proposed Response” [8 February 2022]

SIX: “2022-02-25 ODESC note to PM: Russia/Ukraine ODESC #1” [25 February 2022]

SEVEN: “2022-02-28 ODESC note to PM: Russia/Ukraine ODESC #2” [28 February 2022]

EIGHT: “Policy levers for Addressing Mis/Disinformation” [9 March 2022]

NINE: “Update on Algorithmic Workstream” [8 April 2022]

TEN: “Briefing on the Declaration on the Future of the Internet” [20 April 2022]

ELEVEN: “Progress for a framework on Emerging Technology in New Zealand” [2 May 2022]

TWELVE: “Work Programme on End-to-End Encryption” [11 May 2022]

THIRTEEN: “Foreign interference targeting New Zealand communities: letter to Minister Radhakrishnan” [12 May 2022]

FOURTEEN: “Briefing to PM on Buffalo Shooter incident” [25 May 2022]”

In the light of your complaint to the Ombudsman, the four briefings that are the subject of the complaint have been reassessed. The relevant briefings are highlighted in bold text in your request above.

I am now releasing the three briefings that were previously withheld in full. Please find attached copies of:

- Item ONE of request: December 2017 "*Foreign Interference - Brady Report and Canberra Visit*"
- Item TWO of request: December 2018 "*Our parting thoughts and wishes for the National Security System*"
- Item THREE of request October 2020 "*QAnon - Designation and Dis-information*".

Some information continues to be withheld from these briefings under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand,
- Section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals, and
- Section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

For Item ONE of your request, the December 2017 briefing "*Foreign Interference - Brady Report and Canberra Visit*", there is an Annex to this briefing which continues to be withheld under section 6(a) of the Act.


I am releasing to you a revised version of Item EIGHT of your request, the 9 March 2022 briefing "*Policy levers for Addressing Mis/Disinformation*". After being reassessed, we have determined some additional information from this briefing can be released. Some information remains withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand,
- Section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals,
- 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)(g)(ii), to prevent improper pressure or harassment, and
- Section 9(2)(j), to enable negotiations to be carried on without prejudice or disadvantage.

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 override the reasons for withholding that information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review our decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Ngā mihi nui,


Andrew Kirton
Chief of Staff

Enc: Four briefings released with redactions