



Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

21 OCT 2019

Harry Robson
fyi-request-11254-04e6a2af@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 230-2019

Dear Harry Robson

Official Information Act request relating to meetings that the Prime Minister has held with theistic organisations since October 2017

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request which was partially transferred to this Office from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on 24 September 2019. You requested:

- (1) *How many meetings have the PM and Cabinet had with theistic leaders and theistic organisations since October 2017?*
 - (A) *which leaders and organisations have been met with?*
how many times were said leaders and organisations met with?
 - (B) *How long were these said meetings?*
 - (C) *What was discussed during said meetings?*
 - (D) *Did said meetings impact on any governmental action (including policy and legislation)?*
- (2) *Has the PM or members of Cabinet ever met with the "The Family and International Foundation" (USA) or communicated with them, in any capacity (including indirectly)?*
 - (A) *How long were these said meetings? Who was involved in and with them?*
 - (B) *What was discussed during said meetings?*

In relation to parts one (A) and (B), this information is publically available on the Beehive website (<https://bit.ly/2nLd7uo>). Therefore, I am refusing these parts of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

In relation to parts one (C) I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

I can advise that the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, meets with the Church Leaders Group once a year. This has been the practise of successive Prime Ministers for over fifteen years. This group is comprised of leaders from the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian and Salvation Army churches. The topics of the discussions that the Prime Minister had with the Church Leaders is as follows:

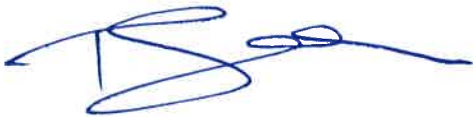
- 9 April 2018:
 - Housing
 - Child Poverty
 - Climate Change
- 15 February 2019:
 - Housing
 - Child Poverty
 - Refugee Policy

Regarding part one (D) of your request, any such meetings have not resulted in new Government policy or legislation. However, these were any opportunity for the Prime Minister, to gain their feedback on policies the Government is pursuing as with other stakeholders.

Finally, in relation to the entirety of part two of your request, the Prime Minister has not met with any representatives from the "[t]he Family and International Foundation". Therefore, I am refusing the entirety of part two of your request under section 18(e), as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Raj Nahna', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff