



5 June 2020

Hemant

By email: fyi-request-12552-fa9416be@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2019/20-0433

Dear Hemant,

Official Information Act request regarding Zoom conference clearance documentation

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 30 March 2020. You requested:

*“...On the 30th of March 2020 in Prime Minister Ardern's her live address to the nation at 4pm she said that Zoom video conferencing has been cleared up to restricted level. This is completely at odds with industries understanding of Zoom, especially given its terms and conditions/privacy policy. Ignoring the title, this is laid out in "lay mans" terms in this article.
https://www.theregister.co.uk/2020/03/27/doc_searls_zoom_privacy/*

Can you please provide all documents and/or correspondance that backs up the use of zoom for meetings? Also, all documents /correspondence that were related to the decision to use zoom...”

I note the timeframe for responding to your request was extended by 26 working days in order to allow further consultation to be undertaken. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

Information being released

Please find **enclosed** documents identified as relating to decision-making on the use of Zoom for Cabinet meetings.

Redactions to the documents provided have been made under one or more of the following sections of the Act:

- section 6(a), where the making available of information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;
- section 6(d), where the making available of information would be likely to endanger the safety of any person;
- 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.

The Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) has advised that there is an error in paragraph 41(e) of the guidance document included at page 42. The sentence should read “only allow remote control of the screen sharing session when on a call with someone from your agency (no external parties), however this feature should not be used in a webinar scenario.”

In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account. 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 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet'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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clare Ward".

Clare Ward
Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement