



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Manatū Aorere

14 August 2020

Alexander Pflaum
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Dear Alexander Pflaum

I refer to your email of 5 August 2020 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"Since March 2019, officials from MFAT and the DPMC have engaged with Online Service Providers and Civil Society groups in order to discuss harmful content online and formulate the Christchurch Call.

Under the rights developed in the Official Information Act, I would like to request the following:

- *Information about the number of meetings held by MFAT and DPMC OSPs and civil society groups since March 2019, including the dates of these meetings, agendas, and meeting minutes*
- *All policy-making and administrative documents relating to the negotiation and implementation of the Christchurch call, excluding email correspondence but including policy memos and working drafts of the Christchurch call text."*

Eligibility to request information under the OIA

On 12 August 2020, we wrote to you regarding the eligibility criteria in section 12(1) of the OIA, which provides that any of the following persons may request information under the OIA:

Any person, being-

- (a) *A New Zealand citizen; or*
- (b) *A permanent resident of New Zealand; or*
- (c) *A person who is in New Zealand; or*
- (d) *A body corporate which is incorporated in New Zealand; or*
- (e) *A body corporate which is incorporated outside New Zealand but which has a place of business in New Zealand.*

Could you please confirm that you fulfil one of the criteria above.

Scope of your request

As your request is currently worded, the scope of your request encompasses a very large volume of information. For example, there have been hundreds of meetings that are potentially covered by part 1 of your request. In addition, work on the negotiation and implementation of the Christchurch Call has been ongoing since March 2019 so the Ministry will hold a significant number of documents relevant to part 2 of your request.

There is a possibility that the information you request above will require substantial collation and research to compile. Are you able to more specifically identify the information which you are seeking?

For example, with part 1 of your request, could you be more specific about the subject of the meetings in question (for example, meetings relating to the development of the Christchurch Call) or limit the time frame covered by this part of your request. With part 2 of your request, could you please be more specific about the types of policy-making and administrative documents you are seeking (for example, are you seeking documents providing formal or substantive advice on the development of the Christchurch Call text)?

Please let us know whether you are willing to narrow the scope of your request by 20 August 2020.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely



Julie-Anne Lee
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade