



21 July 2021

Harold

By email: fyi-request-15572-8e003eb4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2020/21-0619

Dear Harold

Official Information Act request relating to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's strategic framework - resilience to misinformation and disinformation

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 26 May 2021. You requested:

"a copy of DPMC's strategic framework for strengthening resilience to mis/disinformation. If any briefings have been prepared for Cabinet or any minister relating to the development or implementation of this strategy, I request a copy of these as well"

The time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 20 working days because it necessitated consultations to be undertaken before a decision could be made on the request. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) is currently coordinating efforts across government to help strengthen resilience to misinformation and disinformation in New Zealand. To date this has included supporting efforts to ensure clear and effective communications on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, developing tools to understand the varying forms of misinformation and disinformation, and establishing reporting processes for misinformation and disinformation.

As identified in the document: *COVID-19 Vaccine Communications and Engagement Approach*, the strategic framework for strengthening resilience to misinformation and disinformation is in development by DPMC. DPMC is establishing partnerships with non-governmental partners with the aim of establishing a multi stakeholder forum. This forum will ensure that our citizens and communities are able to highlight their concerns, and work directly with government agencies, academia, technology companies and other agencies to co-design the strategic framework for strengthening resilience to misinformation and disinformation.

The development of the strategic framework is in draft form, and we do not consider it is in the public interest to release the document at this stage. Accordingly, I have decided to withhold in full your request for the strategic framework under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

In regard to the part of your request for briefings prepared for ministers, there is one document within scope: *Strengthening New Zealand's Resilience to Mis/disinformation* dated 26 January 2021. I have decided to partially release this document to you noting that some information, including Attachment A, is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- section 6(a) as the release of this 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(b)(i) as the release of this information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government
- section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain constitutional conventions related to the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

In regard to the part of your request for Cabinet papers this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

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



Tony Lynch
Deputy Chief Executive
National Security Group