

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



Cameron Slater

fyi-request-16710-ee201017@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 2021-221

Dear Cameron Slater

Official Information Act request relating to communications between the Office of the Prime Minister and Dr Siouxsie Wiles

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 11 September 2021. You requested:

“Under the Official Information Act please provide documentation, emails, memoranda, transcripts of discussions, messaging including txts, Facebook messenger, Whatsapp, Signal, Snapchat or any other means of communication between Jacinda Ardern and/or any staff member and Dr. Siouxsie Wiles between 3 September 2021 and 11 September 2021.

Please also include any and all communications between Jacinda Ardern and Dr. Ashley Bloomfield regarding the same incident involving Dr. Siouxsie Wiles and Dr. Nicola Gaston.”

On 8 September 2021 the Prime Minister received a text message from Dr Wiles and there followed a brief exchange. To summarise, Dr Wiles messaged the Prime Minister to give her a ‘heads up’ of how you may represent her visit to Judges Bay. Dr Wiles noted that she was unsure if this was something the Prime Minister might be asked to comment on. She then described how she went to Judges Bay with one of her bubble-mates a few days before, and that they sat on the beach chatting. She also noted that her friend had been for a 2 minute paddle. She stated that there had been two other groups on the beach, and that she believed one of those groups filmed her.

The remainder of the text exchange is comprised of observations relating to being subject to public scrutiny, and is of a personal nature. As such I have decided to withhold the remainder of the exchange under section 9(2)(a), which relates to the withholding of information to protect the privacy of individuals.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act.

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, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff