

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



Vanessa Warren

fyi-request-18810-bdec0af0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 2022-121

Tēnā koe Vanessa Warren

Official Information Act request for communications between the Prime Minister, Cabinet, Police and Andrew Coster

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, transferred to this office from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on 5 April 2022. You requested:

“All communication, via email, telephone calls, text messages or minutes of meetings held between the Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, and/or her cabinet ministers, Police Commissioner Andrew Coster or other members of the NZ Police/NZ Defence Force and the contents of the discussions, emails, text messages, phone calls and minutes of meetings between the below mentioned ODESC. Communications sought above are directly related to the Wellington Protest between 1st February 2022 and Current date of writing for transparency. These communications requested also need to include any debriefs held between any of the abovementioned parties of interest specifically once the Wellington Protest ended.”

We are withholding the communications held by this Office within scope of your request under one or more of the following grounds of the Act:

- section 9(2)(f)(ii) – the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain collective and individual ministerial responsibility;
- section 9(2)(g)(i) – the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between Ministers and officials.

A briefing from the Officials' Committee for Domestic and External Security Coordination (ODESC) to the Prime Minister is also in scope of this part of your request. This briefing has been withheld in full under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act, to prevent damage to the public interest, where information was provided in confidence.

In making our decision, we 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 our decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Ngā mihi nui,


Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff