



17 January 2023

Adam Irish

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Ref: OIA-2022/23-0452

Dear Adam Irish

Official Information Act request relating to political foreign influence

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received on 20 December 2022. Your request asked (numbers added for ease of reference):

- [1] What safeguards are in place to protect political parties and politicians from foreign undue influence.*
- [2] Does the Prime Minister receive security briefing and information on donations or transactions from foreign countries to politicians and public figures.*
- [3] What safe guards are in place to ensure political parties and politicians across the political spectrum are not receiving funding or benefit from foreign governments or entities or individuals with close ties foreign governments. That create undue influence on those individuals.*
- [4] Has the Prime Minister received any briefing on donations or transactions made from individuals close to the Chinese Communist Party to the Rt Hon John Key. Has his property sales and business dealings been evaluated to ensure he is not beholden to foreign interests.*
- [5] What risk management framework is in place to ensure public figures that influence the public have not been compromised."*

Part [1] of your request asks about the safeguards in place to protect New Zealand's political system from foreign interference. I refer you to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) website page "*Countering foreign interference*". You can access this at: dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/countering-foreign-interference. This section sets out the systems in place to protect New Zealand from foreign interference including the different roles the government and relevant government agencies have with ensuring this protection.

Parts [2] and [4] of your request ask about briefings received by the Prime Minister. These parts of your request are more closely connected to the functions of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern. Accordingly, I have decided under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to transfer these two parts of your request to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister has the usual timeframes under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on these parts of your request.

Part [3] of your request asks about safeguards for the funding of political parties and politicians and I believe it is more closely connected to the functions of the Ministry of

Justice. Accordingly, I have decided under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to transfer this part of your request to the Ministry of Justice.

The Ministry of Justice has the usual timeframes under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on these parts of your request.

Part [5] of your request asks what risk management framework is in place to ensure public figures that influence the public have not been compromised. I can confirm there is no risk management framework for ensuring public figures have not been compromised. I am, therefore, refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the requested information does not exist.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

We do not intend to publish this response on the DPMC's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Gray', with a large loop at the top and a trailing line.

Christopher Gray
Chief of Staff
National Security Group