



29 August 2023

Erika Whittome
Via email: fyi-request-23662-52f030d9@requests.fyi.org.nz

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Tēnā koe Erika

Official Information Act 1982 request dated 1 August 2023, reference OIA2324-0075

I am responding to your email of 1 August 2023 to Te Tari Taiwhenua | the Department of Internal Affairs requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Please share all Posts and tweet(s) from 1 January 2021 to March 2023 that are requested by the Ministry of Health, Medsafe, MAAC, NZSIS and the DIA to be categorized as “Misleading Information”, “breach of community standards”, “Disputed Claim” and/or “Misinformation” to Twitter and Facebook.

On 24 August 2023, you were notified that your request was partially transferred to the Ministry of Health and the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service for response under the Act.

For this response, both Twitter and Facebook will be referred to as Online Content Hosts (OCH).

Te Tari Taiwhenua is responsible for enforcing the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (the Classification Act), which sets out the criteria for censorship in New Zealand. These criteria are mostly stated in Section 3 of the Classification Act. The broad categories are sex, horror, crime, cruelty, and violence. These are the only censorship categories.

Te Tari Taiwhenua does not use the categories “misleading information”, “disputed claim” or “misinformation”. Therefore, we do not hold tweets, posts, or content relating to such categories.

However, posts or tweets that have been referred to Te Tari Taiwhenua, and on occasion referred more than once, can contain harmful material and breach the community standards of the OCH.

Attached as **Appendix A** is a spreadsheet of the 40 instances, between 1 January 2021 and 31 March 2023, where Te Tari Taiwhenua has sent the OCH an informal notice in respect of content that breached its community standards.

In summary of those instances:

- All 40 URL’s contained harmful content that breached the community standards of the OCH but was not objectionable, illegal content. Topics include:
 - white identity extremism;
 - violence;
 - faith motivated extremism;

- politically motivated extremism; and
- conspiracy.
- The OCH has taken down the post in 39 of the 40 instances.

As the community standards are set by the OCHs for their respective platforms, it is their responsibility to act if a tweet or post breaches those standards. Te Tari Taiwhenua does not determine the action taken by the OCH; nor does the OCH inform us of their decision.

For further information on take down notices, please see the following link:
www.dia.govt.nz/Countering-Violent-Extremism-Transparency-reports.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my decision by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or via freephone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Jeremy Cauchi
Director Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability