

22 October 2024

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Tēnā koe Peter,

Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA24/25-0299

Thank you for your request of 24 September 2024 to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your full request is attached as **Appendix A**.

The timeframe to respond to your request has been extended by 25 working days, to **27 November 2024**, under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act. The extension is required because the necessary consultations to make a decision on the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

Anita Balakrishnan

Director Ministerial and Monitoring

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Appendix A

In January 2019, in response to a OIA request for the document on AI and ethics developed for the 'Digital 9' forum in israel held the previous year, DIA contacted representatives of the nations and israel that had contributed to that document to offer to redact anything they wanted hidden from the OIA request.

- 1) I am requesting, in their original form (not a summary) all communications within DIA and with external parties including (but not exclusively) israel about the response to this OIA request.
- 2) At least in the case of israel, DIA offered to allow them to redact any information they had provided to DIA, including their admissions of their abuse of AI to harass and murder political opponents made in the document.

Is this standard DIA policy when responding to OIA requests- would such consideration be given to a free country like Cuba or Iran, or only to israel and its proxies like the USA or Canada?

- 3) In response to questions from agents of the israeli regime, which has repeatedly been involved in political assassinations of foreign civilians it sees as inconvenient, and which has been repeatedly exposed as conducting illegal 'intelligence' activities within New Zealand, DIA provided personal information about the identity of the requester, including their name, their employer and job title, and their political affiliation.
- 3a) Is it standard practice for DIA when consulting external parties in response to a OIA request to disclose the name, employer, job title, and political affiliation of the requester?
- 3b) Did DIA seek approval from the requester before disclosing their protected private information to the israeli regime, potentially endangering their life?