



26 November 2024

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Tēnā koe Peter,

**Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA 2425-0299**

I am responding to your email of 24 September 2024 to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your full request is appended below as **Appendix A**.

On 22 October 2024, the Department notified you that the time to respond to your request was extended by 25 working days under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act. This extension was required because the necessary consultations to make a decision on the request could not reasonably be made within the original time limit.

**Response to your request**

***Part One***

Table One below provides a list of documents that fall within the scope of part one of your request. I am releasing one document to you, and withholding three documents and their relevant attachments under section 6(a) of the Act, as making available this information would be likely to prejudice the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

***Part Two***

You have asked the Department for information about its policies for handling requests under the Act which include information that was either provided to the Department by third parties or which relates to them. I confirm that the Department does not have any policies, processes, or guidance which support differential treatment of third parties according to nationality or any other categorisation.

***Part Three A***

In accordance with guidance from the Privacy Commissioner, when an individual is seeking information in their personal capacity, the Department will not disclose their identity to a third party which is being consulted, unless that individual has consented to the disclosure.

If the requester is a group, such as a trust or company, or an individual seeking information in their professional capacity (like a journalist), the Department may, if necessary, advise the third party the name of the affiliated organisation of the requester. This is usually sufficient to inform whether the third party has any concerns regarding disclosure and help them to articulate the precise basis of their concerns.

**Part Three B**

Despite a reasonable search of our systems, including the email records of previous employees, the Department does not hold any records of whether or not the requester in question was contacted to seek their permission (prior reference OIA1819-0421). I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the documents alleged to contain the information do not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

**Accessing the Ombudsman**

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ABalaku', written in a cursive style.

Anita Balakrishnan  
**Director Ministerial and Monitoring**

## **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?*

**Table One**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Withholding grounds under the Act</b>
1.	Email Chain: RE: deep dive OIA	15 January 2019	Release	-
2.	<i>Document title and documentation (including attachments) withheld under section 6(a) of the Official Information Act 1982</i>	29 January 2019	Withhold	6(a)
3.	<i>Document title and documentation withheld under section 6(a) of the Official Information Act 1982</i>	29 January 2019	Withhold	6(a)
4.	<i>Document title and documentation (including attachments) withheld under section 6(a) of the Official Information Act 1982</i>	1 February 2024	Withhold	6(a)