

IR-01-24-42699

11 February 2025

John Wilson  
[fyi-request-29268-0a2a09b7@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-29268-0a2a09b7@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear John

***Request for information***

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request partially transferred from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 4 November 2024. You requested:

*3. Information on when the process to designate Hezbollah and the Houthis as terrorist organisations was initiated, including details of the individuals, agencies, or departments responsible for starting the process.*

*4. Documentation or records detailing the initiation of this process, including internal communications, memos, or any other relevant materials.*

I have interpreted your request as seeking information in relation to Hizbollah, specifically to the designation of the entirety of that organisation on 20 November 2024. The military wing of Hizbollah (known as Islamic Resistance) was initially designated on 11 October 2010.

Information held by New Zealand Police (Police) regarding the initiation of the process for consideration of the designation of the entirety of Hizbollah and of the Houthis (Ansar Allah) as terrorist entities is limited to Police's role as chair of the Terrorism Designation Working Group (TDWG). This information is contained in minutes from TDWG meetings.

The majority of the information contained in the TDWG minutes is not relevant to your request or would be withheld pursuant to the following sections of the OIA:

- section 6(a); the release would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of New Zealand.
- section 6(b) the release would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence.
- section 6(c); the release would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences.

In response to your request therefore, I am providing the information sought in the form of a summary, in accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the OIA, as outlined below.

*The first reference to the possibility of preparing a Statement of Case for a decision on whether to designate the entirety of Hizbollah as a terrorist entity was made during a meeting of the TDWG held on 11 October 2023. This meeting included officials from DPMC, the New Zealand Defence Force, Crown Law Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service.*

*At this meeting, officials primarily discussed the potential expansion of the existing designation of Hamas' military wing (known as the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades) to incorporate the entirety*

*of Hamas. The minutes note that similar questions about the existing designation of the military wing of Hizbollah were likely to be raised in future.*

*The topic of designating the entirety of Hizbollah was raised at a further TDWG meeting held on 7 November 2023. At a meeting on 23 November 2023, the TDWG noted that the group would continue to consider the issue of designation of the entirety of Hizbollah and discuss this at a later date. At a TDWG meeting on 1 December 2023, NZ Police indicated it would begin looking at Hizbollah in early 2024.*

*On 31 January 2024, the TDWG agreed that work should begin on a Statement of Case for the Prime Minister to consider designation of the entirety of Hizbollah. At this meeting, TDWG also agreed that work should begin on a Statement of Case in relation to the Houthis due to an increase in the escalation of their attacks on civilian targets in the Red Sea.*

*Drafting and consideration of the Statements of Case commenced in February 2024 and continued until these were submitted to the Prime Minister on 17 September 2024.*

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Yours sincerely



**Dan Wildy PhD**  
Director, National Intelligence  
New Zealand Police