

From: [Paul O'Connell](#)
To: [Paul James](#)
Cc: [@xx](#); [Michael Mathieson](#)
Subject: Administrivia
Date: Thursday, 14 August 2025 9:06:53 am

Hey,

Good to talk yesterday, thanks for taking the time. Following on from that, some matters of administrivia –

- High quality EA support will be required. Is this something DIA can provide? I have thus far been unsuccessful in convincing MoT to allow my EA to join me (which is my preference).
- If DIA can provide logins and devices (computers and phones) for me, Ben Hansen (in cc), and Michael Mathieson (in cc), that would be much appreciated.
- In terms of software – we'd ideally have AI licences on top of standard installs. Copilot at a minimum (which might already be in your standard install?), ideally Gemini and Grok as well (using multiple LLMs and cross checking allows to control for bias and hallucination).
- Access – can Minister Watts' SPS request that his floor be added to my Parliamentary Access Card please?
- Access to your building (45 Pipitea?) – can I please have access to whatever bicycle parking and locker / change rooms you have on site please?

What time should we arrive and for whom should we ask upon arrival?

Really looking forward to working with you (all!)

Cheers,

P.

Paul O'Connell

Deputy Chief Executive
Sector Strategy Group

Ministry of Transport

| E: p.oxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.x | transport.govt.nz

9(2)(a)

Executive Assistant: Anna Northcott | | E: x.xxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Wellington (Head Office) | Ground Floor, 3 Queens Wharf | PO Box 3175 | Wellington 6011 | NEW ZEALAND | Tel: +64 4 439 9000 |

Auckland | NZ Government Auckland Policy Office | Level 7, 167B Victoria Street West | PO Box 106238 | Auckland City | Auckland 1143 | NEW ZEALAND | Tel: +64 4 439 9000 |

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DOCUMENT 1-

have read this email.

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From: [Heather Kirkham \[DPMC\]](#)
To: [Jonathan Franklin](#); [Hamish Fraser](#); [Dan Suter \[DPMC\]](#); [Jared Mullen](#); [Simon Rae](#); [^MBIE: Joe McKay](#); [Jessica Gorman \[DPMC\]](#); [Liesle Theron \[DPMC\]](#); [Mark Talbot \[DPMC\]](#); [Halia Haddad \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: [Janine Smith \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: AI generated non-consensual intimate images
Date: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 5:50:45 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

You don't often get email from .@... Learn why this is important _____

Classification Removed

Afternoon!

I've spoken to a number of you today about the regulatory framework in NZ and elsewhere on AI generated non-consensual intimate images. This email summarises what I've learned, gives you a chance to correct me where I've mis-understood or misinterpreted, and to chime in on next steps, which are proposed to be to ask relevant MFAT colleagues from UK, Australia, Canada if they can:

- Confirm currently regulatory environment wrt AI generated non-consensual intimate images
- Outline any potential changes to the regulatory environment
- Any significant enforcement action underway or being considered wrt AI generated non-consensual intimate images.

NZ's current regulatory environment

My understanding is that the current regulatory environment for harmful intimate visual recordings is governed by:

- Films Video and Publications Classification Act
 - Regulates content not platforms.
 - Criminalises distribution or publication of objectionable content; including anything related to exploitation of children or young persons for sexual purposes regardless of format
 - DIA working with Chief Censor to confirm that AI generated material subject to classification, but prima facie would expect it to.
- Harmful Digital Communications Act – civil and criminal penalties,
 - Provides steps for redress for individual affected by the posting of harmful digital communications – redress largely around taking it down.
 - Unclear if relates to AI generated images as not explicitly contemplated in the definition of 'intimate visual recording'. The opportunity to expressly include deepfakes at the Justice Select Committee was not progressed in 2021.
- Crimes Act (216G – N)
 - intimate visual recording without consent are criminal – making, possessing (for purpose of sharing or selling), and publishing / sharing / selling are prohibited.
 - Unclear if relates to AI generated images as not explicitly contemplated in the definition of 'intimate visual recording'

Summary table:

	Tool / Platform	Generation	Possession	Distribution / publication
Adults	No current	Unclear – intimate visual recordings covered in		

	ability to regulate	HDCA and Crimes Act, not clear if extends to generated images.
Children		Criminal under FVPCA

Out of Scope

UK regulatory environment

Regulatory environment around AI generated non-consensual intimate images:

	Tool / Platform	Generation	Possession	Distribution / publication
Adults	Online Safety Act 2023	Criminal this week Data (Use and Access) Act s138	?	?
Children		Criminal (?)		

UK looking at enforcement action under existing legislation – Online Safety Act 2023 which has duties on social media companies and search services – includes duties on providers to implement systems and processes to reduce risks their services are used for illegal activity and to take down illegal content when it appears. Companies can be fined up to £18 million or 10 percent of their qualifying worldwide revenue, whichever is greater. Criminal action can be taken against senior managers who fail to ensure companies follow information requests from Ofcom - the regulator of Online Safety Act. Ofcom considering action against Grok under the Online Safety Act [Ofcom launches investigation into X over Grok sexualised imagery](#)

Currently creation of image not illegal – but Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 makes the creation of an intimate image without consent, or asking for the creation of such an image, an offence. The Act has passed, and this section will be (rapidly) bought into effect this week. [Reference](#)

Australia

Australia: Regulatory environment around AI generated non-consensual intimate images:

	Tool / Platform	Generation	Possession	Distribution / publication

Adults	Online Safety	TBC	TBC	TBC
Children	Act 2021	Criminal (Acts TBC)		

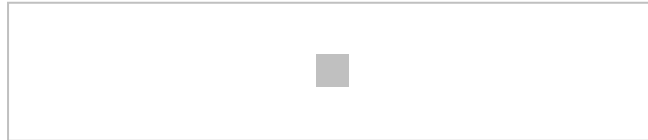
eSafety Commissioner is responsible for the Online Safety Act – regulates platforms, internet and electronic services based on Basic Online Safety Expectations (BOSE)

heather kirkham

Policy Advisory Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

9(2)(a) 

E xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx



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From: [Sophia Kalafatelis](#)
To: 9(2)(a) ; [John Michael](#)
Cc: 9(2)(a) ; [Jared Mullen](#)
Subject: RE: Online harm and Grok [UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 4:24:43 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: 14 January 2026 16:18
To: John Michael
Cc: 9(2)(a) ; Sophia Kalafatelis ; Jared Mullen
Subject: Re: Online harm and Grok [UNCLASSIFIED]

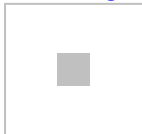
Hi JP,

No. The general issues around the use of AI in both CSAM offending and detection have obviously been discussed, but nothing specifically relating to Grok or any one of the thousands of other AI image generation platforms.

Keep in mind that the 5RD CCEN group is not a policy group though. As a technical research and development group it focuses on developing and sharing actual investigative tools rather than higher level policy changes/implementation etc. I'm aware that this is quite different to how other 5RD groups operate.

Out of Scope

Thanks,
9(2)(a) | Senior Investigator
Digital Child Exploitation Team | Wellington
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua
www.dia.govt.nz



From: John Michael <xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 3:54 PM
To: 9(2)(a)
Cc: 9(2)(a) Sophia Kalafatelis
<Sophia xxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.x>; Jared Mullen <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Subject: FW: Online harm and Grok [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi 9(2)(a)

Has anything been discussed at 5RD re Grok?

Thanks

JP

From: Sophia Kalafatelis <xxxxxx.xxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.x>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 3:45 PM
To: Jared Mullen <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; John Michael <xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Subject: FW: Online harm and Grok [UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora Jared and JP,

I've just received this from our colleagues at MBIE. Policy hasn't been in contact with the UK. I wonder whether Digital Safety might have or whether it's come up through the FCM?

Thank you

Sophia

From: Simon Rae <xxxxx.xxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

Sent: 14 January 2026 15:42

To: Sophia Kalafatelis <xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.x>

Subject: Online harm and Grok [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Sophia,

I've had an enquiry from the PM's office (Policy Advisory Group) today about Grok. The PM had picked up a story about the UK consulting Canada and Australia on a potential response to production of nudes, and wanted to know first whether we had been approached by the UK or whether we might consider contacting them.

We haven't been contacted, but I was wondering whether (a) you guys had had any contact with the UK and (b) who the best person in DIA might be for PAG to follow up with.

Simon

Simon Rae

POLICY DIRECTOR

Technology and Innovation, Labour, Science and Enterprise

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment/Hikina Whakatutuki

9(2)(a)

15 Stout Street, PO Box 5762, Wellington, 6145

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From: [Gillian Ferguson](#)
To: [Nick Law](#)
Subject: RE: Online harm and Grok [UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Friday, 23 January 2026 11:28:25 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks Nick, appreciate that info.

Gillian

From: Nick Law <[x@xx](#)>
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 11:05 AM
To: Gillian Ferguson <[x@xx](#)>
Subject: RE: Online harm and Grok [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Gillian

I've only spoken to Heather once and it was yesterday afternoon after our 1:1, I wouldn't say it was an ongoing discussion with PAG. She called asking for some background on the current regulatory system, regulators and their roles, regulatory gaps, to test her understanding of work by other countries and work that has been done here on regulating platforms. I mostly gave her information that is in the public domain but I did suggest she accessed the December Cabinet paper on social media regulation and had a look at the Phase 2 discussion.

We did not specifically discuss the GROK issue. The Grok issue has been flying around agencies this week. We have not done anything in particular on it and Heather didn't ask me about it.

Attached is the email I sent her with links to documents I referred to in the call. I said I may have something more helpful providing an analysis of how the other countries systems work.

Nick

Nick Law (he/him) | Policy Manager
Online safety | Racing | National Library and Archives

9(2)(a)

From: Gillian Ferguson <[x@xx](#)>
Sent: Friday, 23 January 2026 10:48 am
To: Nick Law <[x@xx](#)>
Subject: FW: Online harm and Grok [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Nick, can you please share any written material sent to PAG on this, as well as a summary of the verbal advice so I'm across the issues? I wasn't aware there had been ongoing policy contact with PAG and would have appreciated this being raised at our 1:1.

Thanks
Gillian

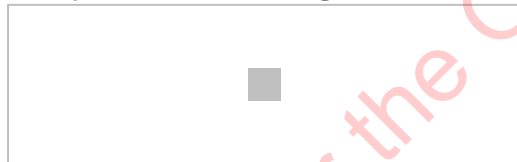
From: Sophia Kalafatelis <sophia.kalafatelis@x@xxx>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2026 11:10 AM
To: Simon Rae <simon.rae@x@xxx>
Cc: Gillian Ferguson <gillian.ferguson@x@xxx>; Nick Law <nick.law@x@xxx>
Subject: RE: Online harm and Grok [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Simon,

I've checked in with our operational colleagues and neither they nor us in Policy have had any contact with the UK about this issue. I've copied in General Manager Gillian Ferguson and Nick Law (Policy Manager) who are the best contacts. Nick is on leave returning next week.

Ngā mihi
Sophia

Sophia Kalafatelis ([she/her](#)) | Senior Policy Analyst
Online Safety, Racing, National Library & Archives | Policy and Te Tiriti
Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua
45 Pipitea Street, Wellington



From: Simon Rae <simon.rae@x@xxx>
Sent: 14 January 2026 15:42
To: Sophia Kalafatelis <sophia.kalafatelis@x@xxx>
Subject: Online harm and Grok [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Sophia,

I've had an enquiry from the PM's office (Policy Advisory Group) today about Grok. The PM had picked up a story about the UK consulting Canada and Australia on a potential response to production of nudes, and wanted to know first whether we had been approached by the UK or whether we might consider contacting them.

We haven't been contacted, but I was wondering whether (a) you guys had had any contact with the UK and (b) who the best person in DIA might be for PAG to follow up with.

Simon

Simon Rae
POLICY DIRECTOR

Technology and Innovation, Labour, Science and Enterprise
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment/Hikina Whakatutuki

xxxx.xxx@xxxx.xxx.xx | 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
15 Stout Street, PO Box 5762, Wellington, 6145

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From: 9(2)(a)
To: [Jared Mullen](#)
Cc: [John Michael](#)
Subject: RE: Media enquiry about public use of X/Twitter
Date: Thursday, 15 January 2026 7:43:47 am
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

...and here's the result... the only mention of DIA being the reporting page!!!

<https://www.emilywrites.co.nz/nz-police-dont-know-what-to-do-about-grok-child-sexual-abuse-images/>

9(2)(a)
Senior Investigator
Digital Child Exploitation Team

9(2)(a)



From: Media Internal Affairs
Sent: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 3:34 PM
To: Jared Mullen ; Media Internal Affairs
Cc: 9(2)(a) ; John Michael ; Elizabeth Hare
Subject: RE: Media enquiry about public use of X/Twitter
For sure! Thanks Jared.

Ngā mihi,

Hannah Johns

Senior Communications Advisor

9(2)(a)

From: Jared Mullen <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 3:34 pm
To: Media Internal Affairs <xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Cc: 9(2)(a) ; John Michael <xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Elizabeth Hare <xxxxxxxxx.xxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Subject: RE: Media enquiry about public use of X/Twitter
Yes – but please insert the DS reporting weblink at the bottom of the answers.
Jared

From: Media Internal Affairs <xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 3:27 PM
To: Jared Mullen <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Cc: 9(2)(a) ; John Michael <xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Elizabeth Hare <xxxxxxxxx.xxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Subject: RE: Media enquiry about public use of X/Twitter
[@Jared](#) – is this good to go? It's due 4pm.

Ngā mihi,

Hannah Johns

Senior Communications Advisor

9(2)(a)

From: Elizabeth Hare <xxxxxxxxx.xxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>

Sent: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 3:09 pm
To: Media Internal Affairs <xxxx@xxx.xxx.xx >
Subject: FW: Media enquiry about public use of X/Twitter
Hey Hannah,
See Jared's response below.

From: Jared Mullen <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx >
Sent: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 2:54 pm
To: Elizabeth Hare <xxxxxxxxx.xxx@xxx.xxx.xx >
Cc: 9(2)(a) John Michael <xxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx >
Subject: FW: Media enquiry about public use of X/Twitter

Kia ora Elizabeth

Here are our draft responses.

In your organisation's opinion, is it legal to "nudify" pictures of users without consent - including through tangential methods like "portray her wearing a clingwrap bikini"

If the "nudification" renders images of adult content it may not contravene the Films, Videos and Publications Classification Act (FVPCA). But these decisions can only be made on a case by case basis.

There may be offences committed under the Digital Harmful Communications Act or Crimes Act (in certain circumstances, for harassment).

Is it legal for users to similarly "nudify" or adjust images of children to portray them in scantily-clad clothing, "clingwrap bikinis" or similar?

Any image which promotes or supports the exploitation of children or young persons, or both for sexual purposes, or depicts sexual conduct with or by children, will likely be illegal under the FVPCA.

Does this material constitute child sexual abuse material (CSAM)?

If it meets the above threshold then, yes. CSAM is the term used to describe illegal material depicting children or young persons.

Given the amount of AI generated CSAM on Grok/X, is it legal for New Zealanders to use those platforms?

The use of AI tools is not illegal. However, it is illegal for New Zealanders to generate or spread CSAM on any platform.

If it is legal why?

As with all advanced technology, AI platforms can be (and are most often) used for legitimate purposes and a blanket ban, would disadvantage the large proportion of legitimate users.

If it is illegal, why?

Do these images/apps fall under the jurisdiction of the Classification Office, in a similar manner to films, TV, publications, and video games?

Apps or platforms are not considered to be publications under the FVPCA. However, images and content generated on apps and platforms are publications for the purposes of the FVPCA and are subject to decisions by the Classification Office and enforcement from DIA.

Why has X/Twitter/Grok not been subject to restrictions in New Zealand?

New Zealand does not currently have a regulatory framework that covers social media platforms. The FVPCA, HDCA and Crimes Act cover the actions of New Zealanders using those platforms.

Major US-AI providers detect and report instances of CSAM production using their systems as required by US law. Where these referrals identify a New Zealand origin we will investigate them using our standard practice.

If not, why not?

See above

What should New Zealanders do if they encounter AI-generated CSAM or nonconsensual "nudified" pornography on those platforms?

Users can use 'in app' safety mechanisms to report offending material and to prevent access to the account responsible for the content they are exposed to.

What should adult members of the New Zealand public do if their image is "nudified" or made pornographic without consent on Grok/X?

Members of the public could contact Netsafe if a "nudified" image has been sent to another person or distributed on an online platform as this may constitute a breach of the Harmful Digital Communications Act.

What should members of the New Zealand public do if an image of their child is used to generate "nudified" images or similar on Grok/X/any other platform?

The user can report to the platform, and report instances of CSAM to the Department Digital Safety team at [DS Web Site]

From: Elizabeth Hare <Elizabeth.Hare@dia.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 11:44 AM

To: Jared Mullen <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; John Michael <xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Tim Houston <xxx.xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; **9(2)(a)**

Subject: FW: Media enquiry about public use of X/Twitter

Kia ora team,

I hope you are all well.

Please see below pretty lengthy media request we have just received, another one surrounding Grok.

The way Josh has positioned these questions, I think we can answer them concisely.

Please note the **4pm deadline**.

Josh has asked: "If you cannot answer all the questions by the deadline, please answer which ones you can today and note which questions can be answered later in the week.

If you cannot answer a question, please indicate which ones, and why they cannot be answered."

Let me know if this is doable.

Ngā mihi,

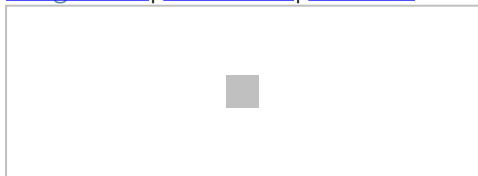
Elizabeth Hare ([she/her](#))

Communications Advisor

Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua

9(2)(a)

dia.govt.nz | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 11:23 am

To: xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx

Subject: Media enquiry about public use of X/Twitter

You don't often get email from [@._____](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi, my name is 9(2)(a). I'm a freelance journalist and my work is published at a number of outlets including the Spinoff, Webworm, Emily Writes, and my own blog. I am collaborating with Emily Writes on a piece about public use of and exposure to potentially illegal content on X/Grok. Multiple articles have been published about this content: here are two examples.

- https://www.404media.co/grok-ai-sexual-abuse-imagery_twitter/
- <https://www.webworm.co/grok/>

My questions are:

In your organisation's opinion, is it legal to "nudify" pictures of users without consent - including through tangential methods like "portray her wearing a clingwrap bikini"

Is it legal for users to similarly "nudify" or adjust images of children to portray them in scantily-clad clothing, "clingwrap bikinis" or similar?

Does this material constitute child sexual abuse material (CSAM)?

Given the amount of AI generated CSAM on Grok/X, is it legal for New Zealanders to use those platforms?

If it is legal, why?

If it is illegal, why?

Do these images/apps fall under the jurisdiction of the Classification Office, in a similar manner to films, TV, publications, and video games?

Why has X/Twitter/Grok not been subject to restrictions in New Zealand?

If not, why not?

What should New Zealanders do if they encounter AI-generated CSAM or nonconsensual "nudified" pornography on those platforms?

What should adult members of the New Zealand public do if their image is "nudified" or made pornographic without consent on Grok/X?

What should members of the New Zealand public do if an image of their child is used to generate "nudified" images or similar on Grok/X/any other platform?

Thanks in advance for your answers to these questions. We anticipate publishing today at 5pm, so please send your answers by 4pm today. If you cannot answer **all** the questions by the deadline, please answer which ones you can today and note which questions can be answered later in the week. If you cannot answer a question, please

DOCUMENT - 4

indicate which ones, and why they cannot be answered.

If any questions can be answered on background, my contact phone number is below.

Cheers,

9(2)(a)



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From: [Jared Mullen](#)
To: [Paul James](#)
Cc: [Karen Hope-Cross](#)
Subject: RE: Digital Safety Approach to AI-Generated Illegal Content
Date: Thursday, 15 January 2026 11:55:20 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks Paul.

Eve has this and has circulated it within Minister IA's Office.

I've also provided this – and other background - to Heather Kirkham (DPMC PAG Advisor for science and technology). Heather was preparing material yesterday for the PM and she and I had a detailed conversation.

Happy New Year! Lots of interesting issues to look forward to on the Digital Safety front- no risk of boredom or being idle.

Noho ora mai

Jared Mullen
General Manager Digital Safety and Identity Investigations
New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs

Email: [.@..](#)

9(2)(a)

From: Paul James <xxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 6:03 PM
To: Jared Mullen <xxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>
Subject: FW: Digital Safety Approach to AI-Generated Illegal Content

Happy New Year Jared,

Excellent email, if you haven't already I suggest you proactively share with the Private Secretaries in Min IA's office.

Nga mihi
Paul

Paul James

Secretary for Internal Affairs | Tumu Whakarae mō Te Tari Taiwhenua
[Government Chief Digital Officer](#) | [Secretary for Local Government](#)
Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua

45 Pipitea Street PO Box 805, Wellington, 6140

dia.govt.nz | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



From: Fergus Broom <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>
Sent: 14 January 2026 12:30
To: Paul James <xxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>
Cc: Karen Hope-Cross <xxxxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>
Subject: FW: Digital Safety Approach to AI-Generated Illegal Content

Hi Paul

Here's the email from Jared, as mentioned in my text

Ngā mihi
Fergus

From: Jared Mullen <xxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 January 2026 12:41 pm
To: Rachel Leota <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>; Russell Burnard <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>;
Karen Hope-Cross <Karen.Hope-Cross@dia.govt.nz>; Fergus Broom
<xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>; Sean O'Neill <Sean.O'xxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>;
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Cc: Media Internal Affairs <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>; John Michael <xxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>; **9(2)(a)**
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@dia.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@dia.govt.nz)>
Subject: Digital Safety Approach to AI-Generated Illegal Content

Kia ora colleagues

Digital Safety has had a steady stream of inquiries from multiple sources over the past few days in response to public and media concern about the use of AI to generate harmful content. I understand that the media has also approached the Minister.

I thought I would set out Digital Safety's current approach to you all simultaneously, so that there is reduced risk of confusion.

Context:

- The UK technology secretary has backed blocking UK access to X due to alleged non-compliance with UK online safety laws. In particular, the use of Grok AI in generating illegal imagery, including child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and

deepfake content.

- NZ media, including RNZ and Newsroom, have simultaneously queried DIA and the Minister's office on the same issue.
- We have also received public inquiries on this issue – two demanding that the Government take action to address illegal content from Grok (X) AI including banning/blocking the platform.

Mandate:

- DIA's role is narrow and clear under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 we are concerned only with illegal content, particularly:
 - Illegal CSAM
 - Illegal promotional terrorist content
- Both are illegal whether real or AI-generated.
- Non-consensual deepfake sexual imagery generally could potentially be captured under the **Harmful Digital Communications Act** or **Crimes Act**, but these are not DIA's mandate.

Current Situation:

- U.S.-based platforms must report CSAM to NCMEC, which refers cases to NZ. This includes AI generated content.
- NZ has received 136 referrals from X/Grok AI from 31 December 2025 to 10 January 2026; these are being triaged and prioritized and will be tackled in the usual way.
- DIA can issue takedown notices, a process routinely applied for terrorist content. Compliance varies—X is often less cooperative than other platforms.

Key Points:

- DIA has **no legal authority to ban X, or Grok AI**. This would also disrupt legitimate AI use.
- Filtering social media content via the Child Exploitation Filter is **not the best approach**; most content is accessed in-app and encrypted.
- Under current policy settings, our current approach to illegal content on social media (including AI generated social media content) focuses on **investigation, takedown notices, and platform engagement**, not blanket bans or filtering.

Please let us know if further briefing or talking points are required for media or ministerial queries.

Jared Mullen

General Manager Digital Safety and Identity Investigations
New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs

Email: .@..

9(2)(a)

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From: [Karen Hope-Cross](#)
To: [Nick Law](#); [Jared Mullen](#)
Cc: 9(2)(a); [Gillian Ferguson](#)
Subject: FW: thank you
Date: Friday, 23 January 2026 10:42:05 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Morena
Some excellent feedback from our PAG advisor for you, and likely some of your kaimahi.
Well done
Ngā mihi
Karen

From: Heather Kirkham [DPMC]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2026 6:15 PM
To: Paul James
Cc: Karen Hope-Cross
Subject: thank you
Classification Removed

Hey Paul,
Happy new year!

9(2)(g)(i) to understand the landscape around regulation of tech platforms in the context of the Grok / AI generated non consensus intimate images that became an issue last week. They have been excellent - helpful, knowledgeable, thoughtful, concise and most of all patient with me given my total ignorance and calling out of the blue, particularly Nick Law and Jared Mullen.

h

heather kirkham
Policy Advisory Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
9(2)(a)

E 



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DOCUMENT - 7

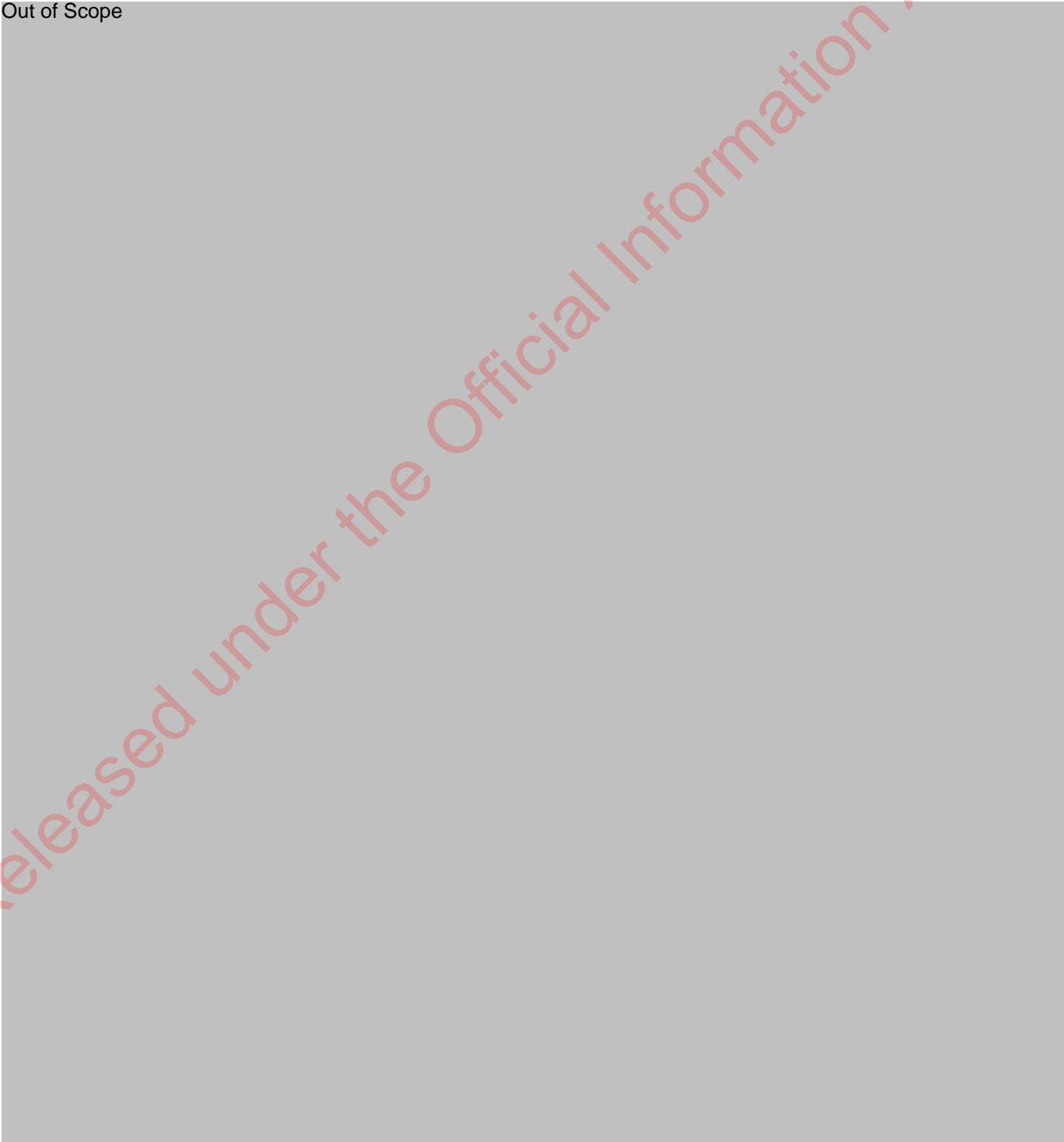
From: [Karen Hope-Cross](#)
To: [Paul James](#)
Cc: [Sue Goile](#); [Fergus Broom](#)
Subject: Classification Remove OoTS weekly email
Date: Friday, 23 January 2026 3:54:14 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Kia ora Paul

Hope you have had a great break. We have put everything in your tray for your return. This includes a separate summary of what came up as Acting Secretary.

Please find this week's update.

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9(2)(g)(i)

-

AI meeting with Minister Van Velden

You are meeting with Minister Velden on Thursday. The briefing on AI deployment at DIA has gone across. We've also heard through Eve that the Minister has raised questions about Grok AI and the current regulatory framework, so it's likely that these broader questions may come up too. We've asked Jared to provide a state of play on this issue (which we have), including any discussions with other agencies about wider work across government.

Beyond the briefing and note on Grok, is there anything else you think you might need for this meeting?

-

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From: [Jared Mullen](#)
To: [Fergus Broom](#); [Gillian Ferguson](#); [Murray Davey](#)
Cc: [Nicki Truesdale](#); [Danielle Finnie](#); [Sue Goile](#); 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Meeting with Minister van Velden - AI use at DIA
Date: Friday, 23 January 2026 2:33:31 pm
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
[Notes for Paul James - AI-Generated Material - January 2026.docx](#)

Kia ora Fergus and colleagues

As requested – a one-pager on AI is attached.

We haven't referenced the MBIE policy statements on AI BUT – these were about enabling commercial use and had an economic growth lens rather than a regulatory or public safety lens.

Noho ora mai

Jared Mullen

General Manager Digital Safety and Identity Investigations
New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs

Email: [. @ . .](mailto:..@..)

9(2)(a)

From: Jared Mullen
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 10:04 AM
To: Fergus Broom ; Gillian Ferguson ; Murray Davey
Cc: Nicki Truesdale ; Danielle Finnie ; Sue Goile ; 9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: Meeting with Minister van Velden - AI use at DIA

Certainly Fergus.

I will also copy in these addressees so that everyone has the info.

Cheers

Jared

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Fergus Broom
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 9:16:12 AM
To: Jared Mullen ; Gillian Ferguson ; Murray Davey
Cc: Nicki Truesdale ; Danielle Finnie ; Sue Goile
Subject: FW: Meeting with Minister van Velden - AI use at DIA

Hi both,

See below – sounds like Minister Van Velden is interested in Grok AI and may raise questions at the AI meeting you and Paul have with her on Thursday next week, Murray.

Jared: I know your team has provided some useful info on Grok over the last week or two and how it is regulated under current legislation. Are you able to pull this together into a 1 pager for Paul? Wouldn't need a coversheet or anything, just over email is fine. Would be good to get an idea of whether there's anything happening across government (e.g. with Justice). Could we please get this by **COP Tuesday 27 January?**

Gillian: Just looping you in given the Minister is asking about the regulatory framework and where any gaps might be, and it could come up in the context of social media regulation.

Ngā mihi

Fergus

From: Karen Hope-Cross
Sent: Thursday, 22 January 2026 4:38 pm
To: Fergus Broom
Subject: FW: Meeting with Minister van Velden - AI use at DIA

Can you progress this on what Paul may need please.

Ngā mihi

Karen

From: 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2026 4:10 PM
To: Murray Davey <..@..>
Cc: Danielle Finnie <..@..>; Sue Goile <..@..>; Ministerial Correspondence <..@..>; Rae Kitney <..@..>; Karen Hope-Cross <..@..>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Minister van Velden - AI use at DIA

Great, thanks Murray.

FYI ahead of the meeting – the Minister has been quite engaged on the topic of AI across various work

programmes and the issue with Grok AI being used to create deepfakes is a matter which is still top of mind. This is likely to mean the Minister may raise broader queries around the use of AI including current reach of legislation and what is unregulated.

9(2)(a)



Authorised by Hon Brooke van Velden, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

From: Murray Davey <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 22 January 2026 3:48 pm
To: 9(2)(a)
Cc: Danielle Finnie <[redacted]>; Sue Goile <[redacted]>; Ministerial Correspondence <[redacted]>; Rae Kitney <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Minister van Velden - AI use at DIA

Hi 9(2)(a)
Please find attached the briefing for the Minister to support the meeting "AI use at DIA" on the 29 January. Please let me know if you would like any other information prior to the meeting.
Sue, Dani – Can you please include this for Paul and Myles in their meeting packs
Ministerial Correspondence – For your records. The Ministerial Database number is IA202610832.

Regards
Murray

Murray Davey (he/him) | Chief Digital Officer / GM Enterprise Digital Services
Enterprise Digital Services | Te Ara Matihiko
Digital Services Branch | Te Pūnaha Matihiko
The Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua
9(2)(a) | 45 Pipitea Street | PO Box 1568, Wellington 6140, New Zealand | www.dia.govt.nz

-----Original Appointment-----

From: 9(2)(a) <[redacted].go t.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 10:58 am
To: 9(2)(a); Murray Davey; Myles Ward
Cc: Danielle Finnie
Subject: Meeting with Minister van Velden - AI use at DIA
When: Thursday, 29 January 2026 10:15 am-10:45 am (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.
Where: EW6.1

You don't often get email from 9(2)(a)@[redacted]. Learn why this is important

Hi Murray and Myles,
Confirming a time for you to meet with Minister van Velden to discuss AI use at DIA. I have attached Paul's email for reference.
As mentioned could you please provide any supporting material for this meeting by 22 January.

Thanks

9(2)(a)



Authorised by Hon Brooke van Velden, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



From: [Alison Lewes](#)
To: [Tessa Houghton](#); [Jared Mullen](#); [DS_BranchPerformance](#)
Cc: [Frances Parker](#); [Laura Sommer](#); [James Little](#); [Phil Weir](#)
Subject: RE: Upcoming X (Twitter) meeting with NZ Ambassador to US: request for briefing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 11:59:32 am
Attachments: [RE Upcoming X \(Twitter\) meeting with NZ Ambassador to US request for briefing_SECUNCLASSIFIED .msg](#)
[image001.png](#)

Thanks Tessa, that sounds good. [@Jared Mullen](#) I will connect you with MFAT (latest attached) and leave this with your teams.

Cheers

From: Tessa Houghton
Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 11:52 am

Thanks – I think that this meeting is more relevant to MBIE and DIA (Digital Safety) than GCDO, but there may be some linkages to digital identity re age verification I've cc'd in Jared from our Digital Safety team who has been across conversations about Grok etc.

Ngā mihi,

Tessa

From: Alison Lewes <xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Sent: 28 January 2026 11:11
To: DS_BranchPerformance <DS_xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Phil Weir <xxxx.xxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Cc: Tessa Houghton <xxxxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Frances Parker <xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Subject: FW: Upcoming X (Twitter) meeting with NZ Ambassador to US: request for briefing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Hi there, info request just received for commissioning. I will acknowledge and copy you.
Thanks

From: MURPHY, Emma (ISED) <xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 10:44 am
To: Alison Lewes <xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Cc: Pedro Ramirez <xxxxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>
Subject: FW: Upcoming X (Twitter) meeting with NZ Ambassador to US: request for briefing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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[UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora Alison,

I'm forwarding the below to you as per Pedro's out of office.

Best,
Emma

9(2)(a)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: MURPHY, Emma (ISED)

Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 10:41

To: 'xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx' <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Pedro Ramirez <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Liam Williams <xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx>

Subject: Upcoming X (Twitter) meeting with NZ Ambassador to US: request for briefing

Kia ora koutou,

Hope you're all well.

I'm currently covering the Emerging Tech portfolio here in ISED. I'm reaching out as X (fka Twitter) have requested a meeting with our Ambassador in Washington, and the Post (WSH) are requesting briefing for this meeting. The meeting date remains TBC, but will likely be within the next couple of weeks.

We've asked WSH for any insights into exactly what X may wish to discuss with the Ambassador, but we imagine this could cover a wide range of issues from social media age bans to AI regulation and content issues (e.g. recent issues around sexual sation of children via X's AI app).

I hope that MBIE and DIA might be able to contribute to a brief for the Ambassador. If you're not the right point of contact for this, grateful if you could please point me in the right direction.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Ngā mihi nui,

Emma

Emma Murphy ([she/her](#))

Senior Policy Officer, Outer Space & Emerging Technologies

Tupe Whakamaru | International Security & Disarmament Division

Manatū Aorere | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade

9(2)(a)

E xxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx

195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18901, Wellington 5045, New Zealand

www.mfat.govt.nz | www.safetravel.govt.nz



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From: [Jared Mullen](#)
To: [Nick Law](#); [Nikki Hurst](#); [Heather Kirkham \[DPMC\]](#); [Harris, Lison](#); [^MBIE: Gina Williamson](#); [Dan Suter \[DPMC\]](#); [Keys, Fleur](#); [Liesle Theron \[DPMC\]](#); [Karen McDonald](#)
Cc: [Simon Rae](#); [Mark Talbot \[DPMC\]](#); [^MBIE: Joe McKay](#)
Subject: RE: Platform regulation [UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Friday, 30 January 2026 1:39:50 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Kia ora colleagues

Only 1 to 2pm is out for me on Thursday.

Jared Mullen

General Manager Digital Safety and Identity Investigations

New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs

Email: [.@..](#)

9(2)(a)

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9(2)(a)

E [x@xxx](#)

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From: Heather Kirkham [DPMC] <[x@xxx](#)>

Sent: Friday, 30 January 2026 10:04 am

To: Harris, Lison <[x@xxx](#)>; ^MBIE: Gina Williamson <[x@xxx](#)>; Jared Mullen <[x@xxx](#)>; Dan Suter [DPMC] <[x@xxx](#)>; Keys, Fleur <[x@xxx](#)>; Nick Law <[x@xxx](#)>; Liesle Theron [DPMC] <[x@xxx](#)>; Karen McDonald <[x@xxx](#)>

Cc: Nikki Hurst <[x@xxx](#)>; Simon Rae <[x@xxx](#)>; Mark Talbot [DPMC] <[x@xxx](#)>; ^MBIE: Joe McKay <[x@xxx](#)>

Subject: RE: Platform regulation [UNCLASSIFIED]

Absolutely. I think that would be useful.

From: Harris, Lison <[x@xxx](#)>

Sent: Friday, 30 January 2026 9:55 am

To: ^MBIE: Gina Williamson <[x@xxx](#)>; Heather Kirkham [DPMC] <[x@xxx](#)>; Jared Mullen <[x@xxx](#)>; Dan Suter [DPMC] <[x@xxx](#)>; Keys, Fleur <[x@xxx](#)>; Nick Law <[x@xxx](#)>; Liesle Theron [DPMC] <[x@xxx](#)>; Karen McDonald <[x@xxx](#)>

Cc: Nikki Hurst <[x@xxx](#)>; Simon Rae <[x@xxx](#)>; Mark Talbot [DPMC] <Mark.Talbot@dpmc.govt.nz>; ^MBIE: Joe McKay <[x@xxx](#)>

Subject: RE: Platform regulation [UNCLASSIFIED]

I agree, it will be useful to see the lay of the land. Would you like us to include someone from the team which manages the contract with NetSafe?

From: Gina Williamson <[x@xxx](#)>

Sent: Friday, 30 January 2026 9:28 am

To: Heather Kirkham [DPMC] <[x@xxx](#)>; Jared Mullen <[x@xxx](#)>; Dan Suter [DPMC] <[x@xxx](#)>; Harris, Lison <[x@xxx](#)>; Keys, Fleur <[x@xxx](#)>; Nick Law <[x@xxx](#)>; Liesle Theron [DPMC] <[x@xxx](#)>; Karen McDonald <[x@xxx](#)>

Cc: Nikki Hurst <[x@xxx](#)>; Simon Rae <[x@xxx](#)>; Mark Talbot [DPMC] <[x@xxx](#)>; Joe McKay <[x@xxx](#)>


Subject: RE: Platform regulation [UNCLASSIFIED]

Mōrena Heather, kia ora koutou,

Thanks Heather for the suggestion and getting the ball rolling. I'd appreciate the opportunity to connect with you all to join dots and understand perspectives across agencies.

I'm not able to do 10am Thursday 5 Feb unfortunately, though possibly other times that day / week and week following. @Karen, might you kindly assist us in finding a time that suits for this cross-agency kōrero?

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From: [Natalia Fareti](#)
To: [Gillian Ferguson](#); [Nick Law](#)
Subject: Re: AI Issues
Date: Friday, 30 January 2026 2:44:51 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Noted and yes happy to. We'll chat early next week Nick - back-to-back engagements today!

Ngā mihi,

~ Natalia

From: Gillian Ferguson <[x@xx](#)>
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 12:31:31 PM
To: Natalia Fareti <[x@xx](#)>; Nick Law <[x@x.nz](#)>
Subject: AI Issues

Kia ora kōrua

Following on from this week's officials meeting with Minister Stanford where she asked for advice on how other jurisdictions are approaching the Grok issue, could you please work together to consider the advice that DIA has already prepared for Minister van Velden on this area and how this is best re-purposed to meet Minister Stanford's needs. I'm comfortable with either a stand-alone info briefing to Minister Stanford or integrating this into the next project update. Under either approach this is something that I'll sign out in my role across both areas please.

Ngā mihi
Gillian

Gillian Ferguson | GM Policy
Policy and Te Tiriti Branch
Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua

9(2)(a) [www.dia.govt.nz](#)



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From: Michael Stuart
Sent: 03 February 2026 11:02 AM
To: Pedro Ramirez
Cc: Frances Parker ; Phil Weir ; Besa Chembo ; Andy Cameron
Subject: Re: FOR STRATEGY & EDS REV EW APPROVAL: Comms pack Post interview Paul James - Public Service AI Work Programme February 2026
Welcome back Pedro.

Yes Phil has provided helpful feedback and comments in the **Reactive messaging** section, thanks Phil. I've updated as recommended.

There's an outstanding review re: ManageMyHealth which Laura will look at.

I've sent it to Murray Davey too for review of the messaging re: internal DIA AI programs, and one question about Grok specifically, tho of course he should be across the whole memo as the DIA Chief Digital Officer and senior responsible official for AI.

The toolkit was released last week so I've added the following messaging sourced from Digital.govt.nz to help address the **How is the public sector workforce building AI skills and digital capability?** question.

Additionally, we have just released the Public Service AI Toolkit. It consolidates resources to support agencies and their staff in planning, implementing and managing AI technologies safely and responsibly.

The AI Toolkit is a collection of public service-focused standardised resources. The

resources are designed to support agencies making investment decisions, as well as designing, implementing and assuring AI-enabled services.

Currently find in the AI Toolkit are the Use of Artificial Intelligence Policy template and guidance on records management in the context of AI.

If that's ok by you then I don't think there's any else required from Strategy. Thanks to you, Phil, Fran and the rest of the team for your invaluable assistance.

Suggested talking points section looks pretty well finalised, and that's the most important bit.

We're on track to submit the memo to OotS by the Monday 10am deadline tho I'll aim to get it wrapped up on Friday.

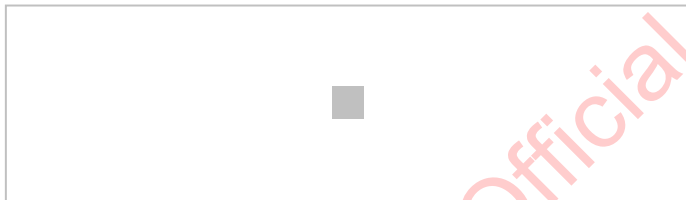
I'm in soggy Auckland right now, back tonight. Just a reminder I'm on leave next week but you'll be in the capable hands of Besa (CCed) for the prep session and the interview itself next week.

Michael Stuart | Senior Communications Advisor
Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua

9(2)(a) [Redacted]

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From: [Nick Law](#)
To: [Gillian Ferguson](#); [Sophia Kalafatelis](#); [Mia Alejandro](#); [Natalia Lu](#)
Subject: RE: For Review - Grok ministerial
Date: Tuesday, 17 February 2026 1:45:18 pm
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Thanks Gillian Sophia will take a look.

Nick Law (he/him) | Policy Manager

9(2)(a) [REDACTED] ational Library and Archives

From: Gillian Ferguson <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 February 2026 1:12 pm
To: Nick Law <xxxx.xxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>; Sophia Kalafatelis <Sophia.Kalafatelis@dia.govt.nz>; Mia Alejandro <xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>; Natalia Lu <xxxxxxx.xx@xxx.xxxx.nz>
Subject: FW: For Review - Grok ministerial

Kia ora tātou, would someone in your team have time to review this response today please? It doesn't appear to have come through Policy and there's content on the Deepfake Bill that needs some changes (it is presented as a Govt Bill).

Thanks
Gillian

From: Jess Watt <xxxx.xxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx >
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 1:05 PM
To: Gillian Ferguson <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx >
Subject: Re: For Review - Grok ministerial

Hi Gillian,

Apologies for the short notice, was just advised you'd like to see all grok ministerials.

It's due to the MO today. It has been through Stacey, just needs to go to Mark for final sign out.

Ngā mihi

Jess Watt

Senior Advisor, Ministerial and Official Correspondence
Policy & Te Tiriti Branch

Te Tari Taiwhenua Department of Internal Affairs

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signatureImage

From: Gillian Ferguson <Gillian.Ferguson2@dia.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 12:19:11 PM
To: Jess Watt <Jess.Watt@dia.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: For Review - Grok ministerial

Hi Jess, when do you need this completed by please?

From: Jess Watt <Jess.Watt@dia.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 11:56 AM
To: Gillian Ferguson <Gillian.Ferguson2@dia.govt.nz>
Subject: For Review - Grok ministerial

Kia Ora Gillian,

Please see ready for your review.

9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi

Jess Watt

Senior Advisor, Ministerial and Official Correspondence
Policy & Te Tiriti Branch

Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua

45 Pipitea Street | PO Box 805, Wellington 6140, New Zealand | www.dia.govt.nz



From: 9(2)(a)
To: [Jess Watt](#); 9(2)(a)
Cc: [Jared Mullen](#)
Subject: RE: COR3973 RE: GROK APP for DIA
Date: Thursday, 12 February 2026 9:02:30 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

No worries Jess – we will input some standard lines we have used previously into the letter

From: Jess Watt

Sent: Thursday, 12 February 2026 8:52 am

To: 9(2)(a)

Subject: FW: COR3973 RE: GROK APP for DIA

Kia Ora team,

I've received the below ministerial on grok, and am needing help with some content, are you able to please help?

If you can, please drop in some lines to the doc by **COP Monday?**

9(2)(a)

We've noticed an increase in these types of correspondence so it may be good if we could get some standard lines we can use

Ngā mihi

Jess Watt

Senior Advisor, Ministerial and Official Correspondence

Policy & Te Tiriti Branch

Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua

45 Pipitea Street | PO Box 805, Wellington 6140 New Zealand | www.dia.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 16 January 2026 10:08 AM

To: MPTamaki <xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx >; Rt Hon Christopher Luxon

<Christopher.Luxon@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon David Seymour

<David.Seymour@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: Hon Erica Stanford <xxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx >; Hon Nicola Willis

<xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx>

Subject: GROK APP

Hello Hon Brooke van Helden (copying on others too)

Please do not wait for your "officials" to look at this gross business. It's all over the media in UK etc. see Newsnight BBC. And listen to Woman's Hour on BBC Radio 4. Young girls have committed suicide over being abused by use of AI - shocking.

Needs to be stopped, nipped in bud but everyday we let these dreadful folks get away with their nasty horrible stuff more young women and even younger are affected. Need I Really say more??!!

Regards

9(2)(a)

Taupo & Wellington

Sent from my iPhone

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 16 January 2026, regarding the use of the Grok app.

As Minister responsible for the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993, I am concerned about all reports of online child sexual exploitation material (CSEM). It is illegal in New Zealand to generate, possess or share such material including AI generated imagery using tools like Grok.

Investigators from the Department of Internal Affairs Digital Child Exploitation Team are dedicated to stopping the spread of CSEM online, identifying and safeguarding victims and holding perpetrators to account.

Regarding harmful images which do not depict children, you may be aware of MP Laura McClure's members bill that proposes to address this issue (the Deepfake Digital Harm and Exploitation Bill). This Bill seeks to restrict the creation, sharing and threatening to share of nonconsensual sexually explicit deepfakes. The Bill may be referred to Select Committee this year. I would encourage you to also share your thoughts on this issue through the select committee submissions process.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Brooke van Velden
Minister of Internal Affairs

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