



5 May 2026

Stephanie Mudgeway
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Ref: PMO OIA 778-2025-26

Dear Stephanie,

Official Information Act request: Broadcasting Standards Authority

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 15 April 2026. You requested:

“This request concerns the Prime Minister's office's involvement in, awareness of, or facilitation of the Government's move toward abolishing the Broadcasting Standards Authority following the BSA's jurisdiction decision regarding The Platform, and in particular whether Sean Plunket, The Platform, or parties associated with them had any influence on that direction.

I request:

- 1. All correspondence (including emails, letters, text messages, and records of phone calls or meetings) between the Prime Minister or his office and the following parties, from 1 January 2024 to the date this request is received, relating to the BSA, The Platform, online broadcasting regulation, or the abolition of the BSA:*
 - a. Sean Plunket, or any employee, representative, funder, investor, or associate of The Platform;*
 - b. Winston Peters or his office;*
 - c. Any Act party representative or staff member;*
 - d. The Minister of Media and Communications or his office;*
 - e. Any lobbyist, lawyer, or public relations professional acting on behalf of The Platform or its backers;*
 - f. Any media owner, editor, or executive with a commercial interest in the BSA's abolition.*
- 2. All briefings, policy papers, or advice received by the Prime Minister's office regarding:*
 - a. Abolishing or disestablishing the BSA;*
 - b. The BSA's jurisdiction decision over The Platform;*
 - c. Coalition management considerations arising from New Zealand First's or Act's calls to scrap the BSA;*
 - d. Any reputational, legal, or constitutional risks associated with abolishing the BSA in response to a specific regulatory finding.*
- 3. All diary entries or records of meetings or phone calls between the Prime Minister or his staff and:*
 - a. Sean Plunket or any representative or associate of The Platform;*
 - b. Any known funder, investor, or financial backer of The Platform;**from 1 January 2024 to the date this request is received.*

4. Any records showing whether the Prime Minister's office discussed or was consulted on the timing or sequencing of:

- a. The Minister's public statements on scrapping the BSA;
- b. Government decisions or announcements regarding the BSA's future; in proximity to the BSA's jurisdiction decision on The Platform.

5. Any records of discussions within the Prime Minister's office regarding whether abolishing the BSA could be perceived as retaliatory action against the BSA for its jurisdiction decision, or as protecting Sean Plunket or The Platform from regulatory accountability.

6. Any coalition agreement documents, side letters, or records of coalition negotiations in which New Zealand First or Act sought commitments regarding the BSA, broadcasting regulation, or The Platform.

7. Any records relating to the funders, investors, or financial backers of The Platform held by or received into the Prime Minister's office.”

No information identified – parts 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7

Searches have been completed of the relevant Information Management Systems for the information requested in parts 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 of your request and no information has been identified. Accordingly, these parts of your request are refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

Not official information – parts 1(c), 2(c) and 6

Parts 1(c), 2(c) and 6 relating to the Coalition arrangements are not considered requests for official information as set out under section 2 of the Act. Therefore, responses have not been provided to these parts of your request.

Part 3

In relation to part 3 of your request, you can search the Prime Minister's diary as it is publicly available and proactively released on the Beehive website here: [Ministerial Diaries](#). Your request for diary entries is therefore refused under section 18(d) of the Act as they are already publicly available.

No phone calls occurred that are relevant to part 3 of your request therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act.

Part 4

Identified as relevant to part 4 of your request are some media briefings provided to the Prime Minister by his staff. These briefings are withheld in their entirety under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely,



Cameron Burrows
Chief of Staff