



20 July 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0849

Joshua Riley
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Tēnā koe Joshua,

Official Information Act request relating to Communications with B416 and its representatives

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, which was received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 23 June 2026. You requested:

"All communications — including but not limited to emails, text/SMS messages, instant or direct messages on any platform (including but not limited to Signal, WhatsApp, Messenger and iMessage), letters, briefings, aide-mémoire, meeting invitations, calendar entries, meeting notes, minutes and file notes — sent to, sent by, or copying DPMC, on the one hand, and any of the following on the other hand:

- *B416 (including the B416 campaign/organisation);*
- *Cecilia Robinson;*
- *Anna Mowbray;*
- *Anna Curzon;*
- *Blair Knight;*
- *Malindi MacLean;*
- *any other director, officer, employee, member, representative or agent of B416;*
- *the author and the presenter of the aide-mémoire provided to the Prime Minister on or about 17 April 2025 concerning restricting social media access for under-16s.*

Period: 1 January 2025 to the date this request is processed.

For the avoidance of doubt, this request specifically includes:

- 1. communications held on personal devices or personal accounts that relate to official business (consistent with the Ombudsman's guidance that the medium does not determine whether information is "official information");*
- 2. the aide-mémoire of on or about 17 April 2025, together with any drafts, attachments and related correspondence;*
- 3. internal communications among Ministers, ministerial staff and/or officials that forward, discuss or respond to any communication from or about B416 or its members;*
- 4. records of telephone calls or meetings (including calendar entries and notes) involving any of the above parties.*

These are five separate requests to five separate holders (the Office of the Prime Minister, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Hon Erica Stanford, the Ministry of Education, and the Department of Internal Affairs), each of which holds distinct information. I ask that this request be answered on the basis of the information held by the agency/office to which it is addressed, and not consolidated with, or transferred wholesale to, another agency for a single combined response. I accept that section 14 may require transferring specific information that is held by, or more closely connected to, another agency; where that occurs, please notify me which information has been transferred, to whom, and the basis for it, and answer the remainder yourself.

I anticipate that s9(2)(a) may be considered. I note that it is subject to the public-interest test in s9(1). These are communications between Ministers/officials and an organised group lobbying to shape legislation — a matter in which the public interest in disclosure is high — and the individuals concerned have advocated publicly on this issue, including a public launch event with the Prime Minister, so any privacy interest is limited. Comparable material has already been released under the OIA. Where any genuinely personal detail (for example, a private phone number) is present, I ask that it be redacted rather than used to withhold entire communications. On balance, I consider that the public interest favours release.

If any part of this request is refused, please cite the specific section of the Act relied on and release the balance. If you consider the request too large or insufficiently particular, please contact me to refine it (rather than declining under section 18(f)).”

On 26 June, you refined your request (see Appendix 1). We have interpreted your refined request as seeking communications, including attachments such as briefings, held by DPMC for the period 1 January 2025 to 23 June 2026, where the communications are between DPMC officials and B416 or its representatives. This includes emails, text messages and other electronic messages, meeting and call records, and an aide-mémoire dated 17 April 2025 relating to restricting social media access for under-16s. Per your refinement, we have treated as in scope any communication exchanged with B416 or its representatives that concerns, refers to, or arises from B416’s advocacy or the proposal to age-restrict social media access for under-16s.

Identified as relevant to your request is a meeting on 6 May 2025 between staff in the Prime Minister’s Office, including Cameron Burrows, and B416’s Chief Executive Nicole Green, Anna Curzon, and Cecillia Robinson, which was attended by Nikki Hurst, a DPMC Policy Advisory Group Advisor. DPMC does not hold any formal records of that meeting.

Information to be refused

We have searched our information management systems and consulted relevant officials for information within scope of the remainder of your request. Officials were asked to consider whether they held any information in any location or format, including emails, calendar entries, meeting notes, and file notes. These searches and consultation did not identify any additional communications between DPMC and B416, or individuals representing B416, during the period 1 January 2025 to 23 June 2026. The remainder of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as reasonable searches have not identified any additional communications between DPMC and B416, or individuals representing B416, within scope of your request.

Information more closely connected with the Prime Minister’s Office

The aspect of your request relating to “the author and the presenter of the aide-mémoire provided to the Prime Minister on or about 17 April 2025 concerning restricting social media access for under-16s” is more closely connected with the functions of the Prime Minister’s Office, as it relates to information originally received by that office. As you have made the same request to the Prime Minister’s Office, and that office will be responding to you directly, DPMC has not transferred this part of your request under section 14 of the Act.

DPMC does however hold a copy of the relevant aide-mémoire because it was forwarded to officials at DPMC by the Prime Minister’s Office. The aide-mémoire has already been made publicly available on DPMC’s website as part of a response to a previous request under the Act: <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-07/dPMC-roia-oia-2024-25-0888.pdf>.

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

This response will be published on the DPMC website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Cassidy', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alan Cassidy
DCE, Corporate and Chief People Officer

Appendix 1 – refined request of 26 June 2026

Thank you for your letter and for consulting under section 18B. I'm happy to clarify, and to refine where it genuinely helps, and I think we can resolve this without engaging section 18(f). My responses are below.

Scope is already defined by correspondent The request is confined to communications between DPMC and a specific, finite set of correspondents - B416 and the named individuals. A search by those names over the period is a bounded exercise, and because B416 is a single-issue group, subject and correspondent largely coincide. I'm content for the search to be conducted by those names. I don't think a subject-matter limit is necessary to make the request manageable; but if it assists your review, you may treat as in scope any communication that concerns, refers to, or arises from B416's advocacy or the proposal to age-restrict social media for under-16s.

Emails and formal documents

I'm content for the bulk of the search to proceed as you propose - emails sent to or received by DPMC, and formal advice, briefings, aides-mémoire, correspondence and other documents recorded in DPMC systems - searched by the names below. As you note, those are searchable, so this part shouldn't raise section 18(f).

Text messages, instant messages and call records I don't accept that these should fall away. My request expressly covered communications held on personal devices or accounts that relate to official business, consistent with the Ombudsman's guidance that the medium does not determine whether something is official information. "Not centrally searchable" is not the same as "not held" - it means the records sit with individuals rather than in a central system. Records of exactly this kind - texts and messages between government and B416 on this very topic - have already been released under the OIA and reported by the NZ Herald in November 2025, so the category is both real and producible.

Rather than a central sweep, I'm content to narrow this element to a targeted search: please ask the specific DPMC staff who worked on the under-16 social media policy to check their work and personal devices/accounts for texts, instant messages or call records, within the period, with B416 or the named individuals. A search of a defined set of custodians for named correspondents is manageable and should not engage section 18(f).

Please don't transfer this element to the Office of the Prime Minister As my request sets out, I have made separate requests to the Office of the Prime Minister and three other holders, and asked each to answer for what it holds rather than consolidating. So please don't transfer the text/message element wholesale to the Office of the Prime Minister - I have that covered directly. I'm asking DPMC only for what DPMC and its officials hold. Section 14 should be used only for specific items genuinely more closely connected to another agency, with notice to me of what was transferred and why, as I requested.

Clarification 1 - B416 and its representatives The individuals I named are Cecilia Robinson, Anna Mowbray, Anna Curzon, Blair Knight and Malindi MacLean. By "any other director, officer, employee, member, representative or agent of B416" I mean any person communicating in that capacity - in practice, any communication from a b416.co.nz address, or sent or signed on B416's behalf. To assist your search, that plainly includes B416's chief executive, Nicole Green; please add her as a named search term, and treat any other person corresponding on B416's behalf as within scope.

Clarification 2 - the author and presenter of the 17 April 2025 aide-mémoire I'm not in a position to name them; identifying who prepared and presented that advice is part of what the request seeks to establish. The document is sufficiently identified by its date (on or about

17 April 2025), its recipient (the Prime Minister) and its subject (restricting social media access for under-16s). I ask DPMC to locate the aide-mémoire - together with its drafts, attachments and related correspondence, as my request specified - and to identify its author and the person who presented it.

Timeframe

This is clarification and refinement in response to your own section 18B consultation, so I ask that the original timeframe be treated as continuing to run rather than restarting. If you nonetheless treat the refined request as made today, please confirm that and tell me the new due date.

I'm happy to keep refining in writing if anything else would help.