



Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

10 MAY 2019

Matthew Hooton
fyi-request-10025-63747fd1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 058-2019

Dear Matthew Hooton

Official Information Act request relating to the digital and media expert group the Prime Minister met with on 5 April 2019

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 6 April 2019. You requested:

The NZ Herald has reported that you have "put together a group of digital and media experts who met with [you] for the first time in Auckland on [Friday 5 April 2019] to discuss what happened and may be a sounding board and think tank for future policy proposals". Please see: https://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=12219705

Under the OIA, I request:

- 1. Who were these experts (and any others who were invited but could not attend)?*
- 2. Who selected them, when and what criteria was used?*
- 3. What were the objectives for the group and its first meeting?*
- 4. All notes taken by officials or ministerial staff at the first meeting.*
- 5. Information on future meetings and the objectives and work programme for the group.*

The group provides an informal way to test policy ideas and inform government thinking about its response to the role of social media in the events of 15 March 2019 in Christchurch. The people currently involved are:

- Jordan Carter, Chief Executive, Internet NZ
- Nat Torkington, technologist
- Miriyana Alexander, Premium Content Editor, NZME
- Rick Shera, Internet and Digital Business Law Partner, Lowndes Jordan
- Michael Wallmansberger, cybersecurity professional, independent director; Chair of the CERT NZ Establishment Advisory Board
- Victoria Maclennan, Managing Director, MD OptimalBI Ltd; Chair of the Digital Economy and Digital Inclusion Ministerial Advisory Group; Co-Chair, NZRise
- John Wesley-Smith, GM Regulatory Affairs, Spark
- Lizzie Marvally, NZ Herald columnist; Villainesse.com founder and editor.

Not all people involved in the group attended the meeting on Friday, 5 April 2019.

This Office and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet assembled the group to have a mix of technology sector, media and legal expertise. The Government Chief Digital

Officer and the Minister for Government Digital Services, Hon Dr Megan Woods, provided input on their selection.

With regards to question five no formal work programme has been established.

In relation to questions three, four and the rest of question five, I am withholding this information under the following sections of the Act, as applicable:

- section 9(2)(ba)(i) as withholding the information is necessary to “protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) as withholding the information is necessary to “maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.”
- section 9(2)(g)(i) as withholding the information is necessary to “maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.”

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act.

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

Yours sincerely



Mike Munro
Chief of Staff