



Minister for Women

Minita mō ngā Wāhine

Associate Minister of Transport

Minita Tuarua mō ngā Take Waka

Associate Minister of Health

Minita Tuarua mō te Manatū Hauora

Rich Seager

fyi-request-10773-055be5a2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Rich

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request of **Friday 19 July 2019**, verbatim from your email:

women (and allies) from this country are frequently being banned from social media platforms such as Twitter for simply expressing their understanding of biological science most especially in regard to homo sapien sapiens. They are also being abused on those platforms, their jobs and housing status threatened and not infrequently they are also threatened with violence.

As the minister of women do you have any plans to address these threats and intolerance on the part of those particular gender activists and their allies who are behind this abuse?

As these platforms are essentially part of the privatised commons are there any Government plans to remove these platforms from the private sphere and return this digital version of 'speakers corner' or the 'public hall' to NZ citizens?

I have understood your request to be concerning social media platforms and the abuse of women on these platforms. I do not have any specific plans underway to address threats and intolerance on social media platforms. Social media platforms exist to facilitate the sharing of information and ideas via virtual communities, and their success and longevity depends on the number of global social media visitors they receive. I am not aware of any other plans in New Zealand to remove existing social platforms from the private sphere.

Although the issue you have raised is not within my portfolio areas, as Minister for Women, I support work and policies to keep all women and girls of Aotearoa New Zealand safe, and free from all forms of harm and abuse. New Zealanders have protections against cyberbullying under the [Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015](#)¹. It aims to "deter, prevent and lessen harmful digital communications"; this includes cyberbullying, harassment and revenge porn posted online.

¹ <https://www.consumerprotection.govt.nz/general-help/laws-policies/online-safety/harmful-digital-communications-act/>

The Hon Andrew Little, Minister of Justice, and the Ministry of Justice have been consulted on your request, and are aware of this response.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Anne Genter', written in a cursive style.

Hon Julie Anne Genter
Minister for Women