



21 November 2019

Mahrukh Sarwar
Email: fyi-request-11215-55492e8e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2019/20-0147

Dear Mahrukh Sarwar

Official Information Act request for information to assist participation in the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Attack on Christchurch Mosques

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 13 September 2019. On 24 September 2019 we sent you an email responding to two parts of your request and seeking clarification of some parts of your request. You clarified your request with us in your email of 10 October 2019.

On 11 October 2019 we wrote to you acknowledging receipt of your clarification and outlining the approach DPMC was taking to responding to the remainder of your request in the light of your clarification. We explained the role and function of DPMC and the limits to the type of relevant official information likely to be held by DPMC. We also extended the time limits for response by 30 working days. The additional time was needed both because of the large volume of information we needed to assess to scope your request and to complete consultations before a final decision was made on your request. We are now in a position to respond.

Your request raised 11 questions relating to background information and work in the past relating to cultural and diversity awareness and specific areas of work. Each part of your request is quoted below with our response beneath it.

The parameters you gave for your request were:

We request information for the following time periods:

Period A: October 2017 – present

Period B: November 2008 – October 2017

Period C: December 1999 – November 2008

Period D: November 1990 – November 1999

For the requests that ask for information from Periods A, B, C and D please note we do not require that all the information come through at once.

We request in order of this priority: Period A, then B, then C and finally period D.

Word-specific requests: please include variant spellings for these. E.g. For a request pertaining to “Muslim”, please include variants such as “Moslem”.

“...We request the following information for the purpose of participating in the Royal Commission inquiry into the attack on Christchurch Mosques.

Relevant Operative Mentions

[1] Copies of documents, correspondences and addresses (including but not limited to emails, letters, presentations) referring to any of the following terms:

- (a) Arab / Muslim / Islam / Islamist / Islamicist / Jihadist /
- (b) Terrorists / Extremists / Radical / Far-right / White supremacy

By any of the following Politicians for Period A [October 2017 – present]

- (a) Winston Peters
- (b) Don McKinnon
- (c) Jim Bolger
- (d) Jenny Shipley
- (e) Warren Cooper

By any of the following Politicians for Period B [November 2008 – October 2017]

- (a) Phil Goff
- (b) Winston Peters
- (c) Phil Goff
- (d) Chris Carter
- (e) Trevor Mallard
- (f) Mark Burton
- (g) Don Brash

By any of the following Politicians for Period C [December 1999 – November 2008]

- (a) Simon Bridges
- (b) Judith Collins
- (c) Chris Finlayson
- (d) Winston Peters
- (e) Rodney Hide
- (f) Alfred Ngaro
- (g) Ron Mark

By any of the following Politicians for Period D [November 1990 – November 1999]

- (a) Winston Peters
- (b) Ron Mark
- (c) Andrew Little
- (d) Jenny Salesa
- (e) Kelvin Davis

For Part [1] of your request, we advised that we understood this part of your request to be for any documents created by or from the previous or current Members of Parliament as listed under the different time periods that contain any of the keywords you have listed. We explained that DPMC could only respond to your request in relation to information we hold and advised that we could undertake searches of our document management system under the names of the Members of Parliament you have listed for each of the timeframes together with the keywords you have listed.

We note the possibility that you may have transposed the names of current and former Members of Parliament and Ministers and the time periods so that, by way of example, the individuals who were Members of Parliament and Ministers during Period D are listed under Period A and vice versa. When consulting with you, we advised you that only one of the politicians listed was a Minister for any of the timeframes as you had listed them.

You confirmed that you wanted DPMC to undertake the searches as outlined. We encourage you to contact us further if names and dates have been transposed.

The table below sets out the searches undertaken of DPMC's document management system, with the search terms used, the date range and number of documents returned under each search.

Search String	Date Range	Number of documents returned
("Winston Peters" OR "Don McKinnon" OR "Jim Bolger" OR "Jenny Shipley" OR "Warren Cooper ") AND (Arab OR Muslim OR Moslem OR Islam* OR Jihad* OR Terrorist* OR Extremist* OR Radical OR "Far-Right" OR "white supre*")	October 2017 - Present	684
("Phil Goff" OR "Winston Peters" OR "Chris Carter" OR "Trevor Mallard" OR "Mark Burton" OR "Don Brash ") AND (Arab OR Muslim OR Moslem OR Islam* OR Jihad* OR Terrorist* OR Extremist* OR Radical OR "Far-Right" OR "white supre*")	November 2008 - October 2017	2,960
("Simon Bridges" OR "Judith Collins" OR "Chris Finlayson" OR "Winston Peters" OR "Rodney Hide" OR "Alfred Ngaro" OR "Ron Mark") AND (Arab OR Muslim OR Moslem OR Islam* OR Jihad* OR Terrorist* OR Extremist* OR Radical OR "Far-Right" OR "white supre*")	December 1999 - November 2008	991
("Winston Peters" OR "Ron Mark" OR "Andrew Little" OR "Jenny Salesa" OR "Kelvin Davis") AND (Arab OR Muslim OR Moslem OR Islam* OR Jihad* OR Terrorist* OR Extremist* OR Radical OR "Far-Right" OR "white supre*")	November 1990 - November 1999	0

This gives a total of 4,635 documents returned under the searches undertaken. It should be noted that DPMC also holds hard copy documents that are not duplicated on electronic filing systems. If there were any relevant documents held by DPMC in this form, it is not clear in what context or file that they could be held, so a substantial number of files would need to be retrieved and documents individually assessed.

Given the volume of documents that would need to be assessed for relevance (whether they are by one of the individuals listed in your request within the specified timeframe) we do not believe we can respond to this part of your request. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act on the basis that the information requested *"cannot be made available without substantial collation or research."* In reaching the decision to refuse your request, I first considered the factors contained in sections 18A(1) and 18B of the Act. Although we have both consulted with you and extended the timeframes for response, this has not allowed this part of your request to be answered.

From a preliminary look through the metadata (for example, title of document, email from or email to fields) of the documents for relevance, we did not identify anything obvious that appeared to be from the individuals listed within the timeframes specified. However, if you did want to refine this part of your request to make it more manageable, please advise.

DPMC business units, including the Cabinet Office, with information held on separate systems undertook similar searches. In terms of Cabinet documents, as noted previously, Rt Hon Winston Peters was the only individual listed in this part of your

request that was a Cabinet Minister in any of the timeframes you specified as he is or was a Minister in Period A [October 2017 – present] and Period D [November 1990 – November 1999]. Accordingly, searches were undertaken for Cabinet documents submitted by Rt Hon Winston Peters in any Ministerial capacity that may have contained any of the key words you listed. I can confirm no relevant Cabinet documents were identified.

- [2] *What correspondence have Members of Parliament received from the Public for Periods A, B, C and D which include use of any of the following words:*
- (a) *Arab*
 - (b) *Muslim (including its variant spellings)*
 - (c) *Burqa (including its variant spellings)*
 - (d) *Islamic*

This part of your request was refused in our email of 24 September 2019 under section 18(e) of the Act as the information sought is not official information as deemed under the Act.

Training

- [3] *What professional cultural advice or training or resources has the government requested or received on Islam or Muslims for periods A, B, C and D?*

Diversity

- [11] *What diverse perspectives have been embraced and resulted in reform of organisational culture that promotes diverse experiences and perspectives?*

I note that questions [3] and [11] are related to each other and our response is consequently grouped as follows. As explained in our earlier correspondence, DPMC does not have responsibility for coordinating or overseeing activities in relation to the whole of government and we are responding to your requests in relation to information held or received or more closely connected to DPMC.

DPMC has identified a presentation given to staff in DPMC's National Security Group in July 2019 by NZ Police that is relevant to Part [3] of your request. The presentation is more closely connected to the functions and responsibilities of the Police and we would normally transfer this part of your request to the Police under section 14 of the Act. However, we understand that you have made a request for the same information directly to the Police and, therefore, I am not formally transferring this part of your request.

I can confirm that we have not identified any other specific cultural advice or training or resources requested or received by DPMC on Islam or Muslims for the timeframes specified in your request. I would note that files relating to Human Resources functions are not in an accessible, searchable form prior to 2012. DPMC itself has limited direct contact with the public but appropriate advice and resources would be sought as needed, if the situation arose. For instance, after the mosque attacks in March 2019, DPMC officials involved with the response were able to access appropriate advice as one of the agencies involved with the response. If you have not already done so, you may wish to consider also asking the Office of Ethnic Communities (OEC) located within the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and Police for information they may hold.

DPMC has undertaken a number of actions to promote diverse experiences and perspectives. In particular, in 2017 DPMC ran agency wide unconscious bias training and continues to offer online training on *Unconscious Bias*. DPMC is committed to partnership with Māori and meeting obligations that arise from the Crown/Māori

relationship. To support this, we have provided DPMC staff with resources to support them in building their understanding of te reo and tikanga Māori and how these perspectives relate to the work they undertake as public servants.

Policy Reform

[4] *What made the government form a task force to monitor for far-right extremism in July 2018?*

Part [4] of your request is more closely connected to the functions and responsibilities of the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) and, accordingly, I have decided under section 14(b) of the Act to transfer this part of your request to the NZSIS. I can confirm that DPMC does not hold any information relevant to this part of your request that would not be covered by the response you receive from the NZSIS.

NZSIS has the usual time limits under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on this part of your request.

[5] *Where did the bridge-building initiative between the government and Muslim Community post 9-11 originate from and what initiatives was it based on or influenced by?*

[6] *Why have the government stopped trying to bridge build with the Muslim community? What was the shift in DPMC policy that deprioritised bridge-building?*

Parts [5] and [6] of your request as listed above relate to a bridge-building initiative with the Muslim community following increasing global security concerns and an increase in public animosity towards Muslims. I believe that these parts of your request would be more closely connected to the functions of the Office of Ethnic Communities located within DIA as the lead agency for engagement with the Muslim community. Accordingly, I have decided under section 14(b) of the Act to transfer parts [5] and [6] of your request to DIA – Office of Ethnic Communities.

As this was not a DPMC-led initiative, I can confirm there is no information held by DPMC regarding a “shift in DPMC policy” that deprioritised bridge-building.

DIA has the usual time limits under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

[7] *What cultural intelligence and cultural awareness and sensitivity training and reform arose out of the consequences of the Ahmed Zaoui Case?*

Matters arising from the Ahmed Zaoui case fall within the functions and responsibilities of both the NZSIS and Immigration NZ, which is located in the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). We understand that you have made a request already for the same information directly to the NZSIS and, therefore, I am not formally transferring this part of your request to the NZSIS. As you have not made this request directly to MBIE, I have decided under section 14(b) of the Act to transfer part [7] of your request to MBIE. I can confirm that DPMC does not hold any information relevant to this part of your request that would not be held by or covered by the responses you receive from these two agencies.

MBIE has the usual time limits under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

[8] *What cultural intelligence and cultural awareness and sensitivity training and reform arose out of the consequences of the Urewera Raids?*

Matters arising out of the series of arrests made in 2007 in response to alleged activities undertaken in the Urewera mountain range more closely connected to the functions and responsibilities of the Police and we would normally transfer this part of your request to the Police under section 14 of the Act. However, we understand that you have made a request for the same information directly to the Police. Therefore I am not formally transferring this part of your request. I can confirm that DPMC does not hold any information relevant to this part of your request that would not be held by or covered by the response you receive from the Police.

Royal Commission

[9] *What was the process for selecting the Royal Commission?*

I note that we have responded to this part of your request in email correspondence on 24 September 2019 and in our letter to you of 11 October 2019. This part of your request in relation to information held by DPMC about the process of selecting the Royal Commission has been refused under section 18(d) of the Act as information within the scope of your request held by DPMC is publicly available.

Consultation

[10] *Who is the government's on-hand cultural advisor/negotiator/facilitator for:*

- (a) *On-going strategy*
- (b) *Emergency Situations*

There is no single cultural advisor, negotiator or facilitator for either on-going strategy or emergency situations. We understand that Police have in-house capability through its cultural liaison teams for the work it does, however, depending on the situation, Police would also involve many agencies and community groups to provide assistance or advice from their relevant experience. We understand you have made a similar request directly to Police on this matter.

For DPMC, from our National Security Systems perspective, the Officials' Committee for Domestic and External Security Coordination (ODESC) calls on expertise as required from agencies, including Police, MCDEM, Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK), Te Arawhiti, DIA, depending on the situation.

Similarly for the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) which is located within DPMC, there is not a specific "on-hand cultural advisor or negotiator or facilitator" for emergency situations. MCDEM does, however, have groups of agencies that work together at the regional and national level called Welfare Coordination Groups and the National Welfare Coordination Group that focus on supporting affecting individuals, families and communities during and following emergencies. These agencies consider cultural needs as part of the delivery of their services and the arrangements are set out in section 14 of the Guide to the National CDEM Plan: www.civildefence.govt.nz/assets/guide-to-the-national-cdem-plan/Guide-to-the-National-CDEM-Plan-2015-Section-14.pdf

MCDEM also work closely with TPK, Ministry of Pacific Peoples and DIA Office of Ethnic Communities. During the recent terrorism event in Christchurch, MCDEM sought advice from OEC in particular.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. You can contact the Ombudsman online via the Ombudsman website, by email (info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143. Further details can be found on the Ombudsman website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward
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