

Office of Hon Tracey Martin

Minister for Children

Associate Minister of Education

Minister of Internal Affairs

Minister for Seniors



22 OCT 2019

Harry Robson

Email: fyi-request-11254-04e6af@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Harry Robson

Official Information Act request relating to the meeting that the PM and Cabinet have held with theistic organisations since October 2017

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act (1982). On 18 September 2019, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) received your request via FYI.org.

- (1) How many meetings have the PM and Cabinet had with theistic leaders and theistic organisations since October 2017?
 - (A) Which leaders and organisations have been met with?
 - (B) How many times were said leaders and organisations met with?
 - (C) How long were these said meetings?
 - (D) What was discussed during said meetings?
 - (E) Did said meetings impact on any governmental action (including policy and legislation)?
- (2) Has the PM or members of Cabinet ever met with the "The Family and International Foundation" (USA) or communicated with them, in any capacity (including indirectly)?
 - (A) How long were these said meetings? Who was involved in and with them?
 - (B) What was discussed during said meetings?
- (3) Does the PM or Cabinet have any protocols regarding the separation of church and state?

Parts one and two of the request (highlighted) are for information that is held by the Prime Minister and all Cabinet Ministers. Accordingly, DPMC has decided under section 14(b)(i) of the Act to transfer these parts of the request to Cabinet Ministers.

In response to your Official Information Act request (1), I have provided a table below which shows meetings I have attended with theistic leaders or organisations since October 2017 in my Internal Affairs portfolio.

Theistic Leader/Organisation	How many times has Min met with them?*	How long were the meetings?	What was discussed?	Did meetings impact on any governmental action (policy and leg)?
Muslim Women Dialogue (various Muslim Women Leaders and Orgs)	Once (11 July 2019)	2 hours 45 min	See aide memoire	Withhold under OIA section 9(2)(f)(iv)
Family First New Zealand	Once (28 Feb 2019)	30 min	Child protection filtering devices	No
InterChurch Bureau (ICB)	Once (22 Aug 2018)	1 hr	FENZ levy/Oranga Tamariki Operating Model	No

Meetings which relate to your request (1) that occurred within my Children's portfolio since October 2017 can be found in the second table below.

Theistic Leader/Organisation	How many times has Min met with them?*	How long were the meetings?	What was discussed?	Did meetings impact on any governmental action (policy and leg)?
New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services	Twice (1)14 February 2018	30 minutes	Issues relating to the social services sector, potentially the future of the social investment approach to commissioning social services.	No

	<p>(2)27 August 2019</p> <p>This meeting was a panel discussion (Tatou Tatou E – The Value of Relationships Joint Conference of Community Networks Aotearoa and the NZCCSS).</p>	1 hour	<p>The topic of the panel was “Where’s the resources for community wellbeing? Supporting communities to support wellbeing”.</p>	No
<p>South West Baptist Church</p>	<p>Once (31 May 2019)</p>	30 minutes	<p>Purpose of this meeting was to discuss a new refugee resettlement programme.</p> <p>The South West Baptist Church had been approved to become a sponsor for the pilot of a new Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship Category. The sponsors would help families settle in their community and would provide, amongst other things, housing and furniture, English language classes and support towards paid employment.</p>	No
<p>New York Foundling (Sisters of Charity)</p>	<p>Once (1 May 2019)</p>	1 hour	<p>The purpose of the meeting was to discuss New Zealand’s progress in our reforms and the use of evidence based programmes in our care and protection and youth justice systems.</p>	No

I have not met with theistic leaders or organisations in either my Associate Education or my Seniors portfolios since October 2017.

In response to your request (2) I have not met with the "The Family and International Foundation" (USA) or communicated with them, in any capacity (including indirectly).

You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602

Yours sincerely



Hon Tracey Martin