

Hon Carmel Sepuloni



MP for Kelston

Minister for Social Development

Minister for Disability Issues

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples

Harry Robson
fyi-request-11254-04e6a2af@requests.fyi.org.nz

05 NOV 2019

Tēnā koe Harry Robson

On 18 September 2019, you contacted the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982:

- 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?*
how many times were said leaders and organisations met with?
 - b) *How long were these said meetings?*
 - c) *What was discussed during said meetings?*
 - d) *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?*

Part 1 and 2 of this request, was transferred to my office on 24 September 2019 to respond to in my capacity as a Cabinet Minister. My office wrote to you 22 October 2019 to inform you that a response would be with you no later than 5 November 2019.

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 – 18 September 2019

DATE TIME	GROUP	PORTFOLIO
7/12/2017 9.30 – 10am	NZ Council of Christian Social Services	Social Development
19/12/17 4 – 4.30pm	The Methodist Mission	Social Development
1/2/2018 9 – 9.30am	Auckland City Mission	Social Development
9/4/2018 5 – 6pm	Meeting with the Prime Minister and Church Leaders	Child Poverty

19/5/2018 9 – 10am	Jamie Strange MP and Martin Steele	Social Development
29/6/2018 9.30 – 10.15am	Presbyterian Support Northern	Social Development
10/7/2018 11 – 11.45am	Anglican Trust for Women	Social Development
10/7/2018 12.15 – 1pm	Christians Against Poverty	Social Development
20/9/2018 11 – 11.30am	NZ Council of Christian Social Services	Social Development
18/12/2018 3.30 – 4pm	NZ Council of Christian Social Services	Social Development
15/2/2019 10 – 11am	Meeting with the Prime Minister and Church Leaders	Child Poverty
15/2/2019 1 – 1.30pm	Elevate Christian Disability Trust	Disability Issues
26/3/2019 11.30am – 12pm	Auckland City Mission	Social Development
12/4/2019 1.30 – 2pm	Christians Against Poverty	Social Development

Note that the intention of this table is to give you a general overview of the groups I have met and the topics discussed. I meet with many organisations both formally and informally in my Ministerial capacity. My office does not hold an exhaustive list of every topic ever discussed in these meetings.

For further information, my Ministerial Diary is published online here:

https://www.beehive.govt.nz/search?f%5B0%5D=content_type_facet%3Aministerial_diary&f%5B1%5D=ministers%3A6375&f%5B2%5D=government_facet%3A6203

In response to (1d), I consider the views of all stakeholders and their impacts when making policy decisions.

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

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

Hon Carmel Sepuloni