



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Manatū Aorere

19 March 2020

Beau Murrah
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Dear Beau Murrah

I refer to your email of 20 February 2020 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"I request documents relating to Facebook and specifically algorithms from March 1 2019 onwards.

Including but not limited to:

- 1. Facebook and the Christchurch Call agreement in relation to algorithms*
- 2. The March 15 2019 terror attacks and algorithms and Facebook*
- 3. Efforts taken to enhance algorithmic transparency (per 68. from 27 September 2019: Cabinet paper: Countering Violent Extremist Content Online)."*

On 28 February 2020, you advised us:

"...I am available to clarify anything that is unclear about the scope of the request. I made a similar OIA request to Officer of the Privacy Commissioner and spoke with a policy advisor there and helped clarify my request over the phone and it was a useful exercise.

I have made this request to MFAT principally because it is/was the host of the 'negotiating team' around the Christchurch Call and likely to hold documents or correspondence outlined in my initial request.

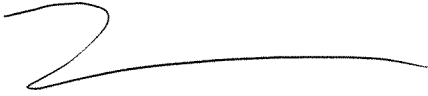
The purpose of this OIA is to help inform a select committee submission on upcoming legislation. Anything I can do to clarify to help keep the request in the timeframe I would happily do."

This letter advises that, due to the necessity for further review and consultation, we will need to extend the time limit for responding to you by 20 working days, to 20 April 2020.

Please note that many Ministry staff are currently working on issues relating to the impact of COVID-19, which is putting pressure on business as usual work, however we are doing our best to process all of our requests as quickly as possible.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'W' followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Wendy Adams
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade