



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Manatū Aorere

2 September 2020

Alexander Pflaum
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Dear Alexander Pflaum

I refer to your email of 5 August 2020 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"Since March 2019, officials from MFAT and the DPMC have engaged with Online Service Providers and Civil Society groups in order to discuss harmful content online and formulate the Christchurch Call.

Under the rights developed in the Official Information Act, I would like to request the following:

- Information about the number of meetings held by MFAT and DPMC OSPs and civil society groups since March 2019, including the dates of these meetings, agendas, and meeting minutes*
- All policy-making and administrative documents relating to the negotiation and implementation of the Christchurch call, excluding email correspondence but including policy memos and working drafts of the Christchurch call text."*

On 12 August 2020, we emailed you to ask you to confirm your eligibility to request information under the OIA. On 14 August 2020, we wrote to you and explained that, as your request is currently worded, it encompasses a very large volume of information. We explained there was a possibility that the information you requested would require substantial collation and research to compile and we asked you to let us know whether you were willing to narrow the scope of your request. On 25 August 2020, we emailed you again to request your response to our previous correspondence.

Following our correspondence described above, we are refusing your request under section 18(f) of the OIA. The Ministry carefully considered your request. However, in the absence of further correspondence from you confirming your eligibility and refining the scope of your request, and given the significant volume of information potentially within the scope of your request, the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In the event you confirm you fit one of the criteria in section 12(1) of the OIA and are able to refine the scope of your request, the Ministry will consider any further request for information.

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 blue ink, appearing to read "Julie-Anne Lee", with a horizontal line underneath.

Julie-Anne Lee
for Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade