



- 6 APR 2021

DG

By email: fyi-request-14601-da7f4fa1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 2021-035

Dear DG

Official Information Act request relating to communication with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received as a transfer from the Government Communications Security Bureau on 15 February 2021. I am responding to your request on the Prime Minister's behalf as my official duties involve responding to requests made to the Prime Minister under the Act. You requested:

- "...1) What level of communication Jacinda Ardern has had with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation since June 2019. Please details all levels of communication whether it be email, Video conference calls (Zoom, Skype etc), telephone/mobile calls, written letters or face to face meeting*
- 2) How long each level of communication in request number 1 lasted, if relevant*
- 3) What was the key agenda items of the communication if this can be shared..."*

I note I extended the time frame for responding to your request under section 15A of the Act by 20 working days to allow for further consultations to be undertaken on the response to your request. Following this, I am now in a position to respond.

The following communication between the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has taken place since June 2019:

Date	Communication format	Subject and key items
24-25 September 2019	Event	The Goalkeepers event hosted by the Gates Foundation which the Prime Minister attended as a keynote speaker, regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable Development Goals;• Inequality;• Wellbeing Budget; and• Climate goals.
8 October 2019	Letter	From Gates Foundation to Prime Minister regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Prime Minister's comments at Goalkeepers; and• the Generation Equality Forum.

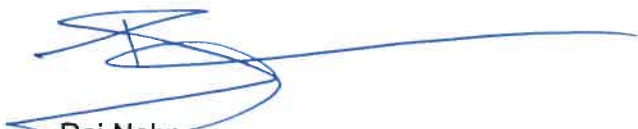
Date	Communication format	Subject and key items
17 June 2020	Phone meeting	Between Prime Minister and Gates Foundation regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Vaccine; and • Impact of COVID-19 on women.
15 July 2020	Letter	From Gates Foundation to the Prime Minister regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of COVID-19 on women and girls.
3 August 2020	Letter	From the Prime Minister to the Gates Foundation regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19's impact and vaccines; and • Elimination of violence toward women and girls.
17 November 2020	Letter	From the Gates Foundation to the Prime Minister regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • re-election; • development assistance programmes; and • COVID-19 vaccines.

I note we do not hold a record of the length of the phone conference referred to above.

For your information, the Prime Minister's keynote address and other appearances at the Goalkeepers event are available on youtube by searching "Goalkeepers Prime Minister Ardern".

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff