



17 January 2023

Harold

fyi-request-18475-e3b57b5c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2021/22-0953

Dear Harold

Official Information Act request relating to the Australia-New Zealand National Security Dialogue

I am writing regarding your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 7 February 2022. You requested:

“ONE: A copy of the full document Australia-New Zealand National Security Dialogue: Briefing Pack (12 March 2021) – i.e. including the parts of this document not processed for release for the OIA request above as they were not in scope.

TWO: Copies of all other “Briefing Packs” produced for each Australia-New Zealand National Security Dialogue since the inaugural dialogue in October 2016.”

I note the timeframe for responding to your request was extended by 60 working days because your request necessitated a search through a large quantity of information and further consultations were needed before a decision could be made on your request. On 2 June 2022, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) contacted you to advise that the response to your request would be delayed. DPMC subsequently provided three responses: the first on 12 August 2022 regarding the briefing packs for the 2021 Dialogue, the second on 7 October 2022 regarding the 2016 briefing pack, and the third on the 15 November 2022 regarding the 2017 briefing pack.

In all three of these responses, you were advised that the information within scope of Part Two of your request was still in the process of being prepared for release and would be provided to you as it became available. As you are already aware, the Dialogue did not take place in 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

I am now able to release to you the 2019 Australia New Zealand National Security Dialogue briefing pack. Pages where information has been withheld in full have been removed from this release document. The sections of the Act that information has been withheld under are:

- section 6(a), as the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the national security and/or the international relations of New Zealand;
- section 6(b)(i), as the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand by another country or organisation;
- section 9(2)(a), the withholding of the information is necessary to protect privacy;
- section 9(2)(j), the withholding of the information is necessary to enable public service agency to carry on negotiations without prejudice.

DPMC's response to your request as it relates to the briefing pack for the 2018 dialogue is ongoing and we will respond to you in due course.

In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

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

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Lynch', with a large loop at the top and a trailing line.

pp.

Tony Lynch
Deputy Chief Executive
National Security Group