

# Office of the Prime Minister

## Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



A.J Sheppard

[fyi-request-18757-91f91a54@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-18757-91f91a54@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: PMO 2022-071

Tēnā koe A.J Sheppard

## Official Information Act request relating to communications of the Prime Minister

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 4 March 2022. You requested:

*"A copy of all communications between Jacinda Ardern and Police Commissioner Andrew Coster for the period February 3rd 2022 to March 3rd 2022.*

*Dates, times and durations for any phone calls between Jacinda Ardern and the following people: the Police Commissioner, the Police Minister and Trevor Mallard for the period February 3rd 2022 to 3rd March 2022.*

*A copy of all communications between Jacinda Ardern and Trevor Mallard for the period February 3rd 2022 and March 3rd 2022.*

*A copy of any communications made to any member of New Zealand Police or on the payroll for New Zealand Police for the period February 3rd 2022 to March 3rd 2022"*

We note that the Prime Minister's ministerial diary contains the dates and times of any official phone calls the Prime Minister has made, and with whom. The Prime Minister's diary for February 2022 has been proactively released on the Beehive website, and the March 2022 diary will be proactively released in late April. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested will soon be publicly available at this address:

[beehive.govt.nz/search?f%5B0%5D=content\\_type\\_facet%3Aministerial\\_diary&f%5B1%5D=ministers%3A6461&f%5B2%5D=government\\_facet%3A6455](https://beehive.govt.nz/search?f%5B0%5D=content_type_facet%3Aministerial_diary&f%5B1%5D=ministers%3A6461&f%5B2%5D=government_facet%3A6455)

The content of these phone calls, as well as the requested communications between the Prime Minister and the Minister of Police, Hon Poto Williams, and the Commissioner of Police, Andrew Coster, is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, as the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.

Regarding the part of your request relating to communications between the Prime Minister and the Speaker, we note that any such communications are refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held by a department or Minister of the Crown.

In making my decision, we have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act.

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

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Raj Nahna  
**Chief of Staff**