



10 May 2022

Sebastian
fyi-request-18760-bab60b63@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2021/22-1067

Dear Sebastian

Official Information Act request relating to ODESC meeting on 17 February 2022

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 3 March 2022. You requested:

ONE: Copies of the agenda and minutes of all ODESC meetings held on this topic (the February 2022 protests at Parliament).

TWO: Copies of all reports, briefings or other items presented at these meetings; and all briefings for Ministers produced by this ODESC grouping

THREE: If a Watch Group was established, I would like to request copies of the agenda and minutes of all Watch Group meetings, and all reports and advice this Watch Group produced for ODESC"

The time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 20 working days because consultations were needed before a decision could be made on the request. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

The only ODESC meeting chaired by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) in response to the protests at parliament was held on 17 February 2022, with subsequent inter-agency meetings led by the New Zealand Police and not DPMC.

The minutes from this meeting and a briefing to the Prime Minister on the events of the meeting are withheld in full under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act as the release of this information would be damaging to the public interest.

As you may be aware, the Independent Police Conduct Authority (IPCA) has commenced an independent investigation and review of the policing of the occupation on and around Parliament grounds.

Details of the scope of the Review are available on the IPCA's website: www.ipca.govt.nz/Site/publications-and-media/2022-media-releases/2022-mar-24-investigation-review-occupation-parliament.aspx

You will note this scope includes engagement with national agencies to develop and execute operational plans, Police planning and preparation of its response, and Police decision-making processes.

Whilst this Review is underway, information relating to the issues under investigation and review is expected to be the subject of examination by the IPCA under its powers of investigation under the IPCA Act 1988. With this Review commenced, there is a strong public interest in allowing these matters to be considered in the round by the IPCA.

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 not be published on DPMC's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marika Hughes".

Marika Hughes
Acting Deputy Chief Executive
National Security Group