



3 June 2022

P Shaw  
fyi-request-18790-444a74b0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2021/22-1065

Dear P Shaw

**Official Information Act request for emails containing phrase 'the great reset'**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 6 March 2022. You requested:

*1). I would like to request all email communications sent from and/or sent to any official of this office during the dates 01/09/2020 - 01/09/2021 that include the term "The Great Reset" and "the great reset".*

The timeframe for responding to your request was extended by 20 working days under section 15A of the Act because it required a search through a large quantity of information and because consultation was needed before a decision could be made on the request.

On 4 May 2022, the Department sent you a letter advising that consultations were still underway regarding your OIA request.

Some administrative emails regarding other Official Information Act requests were located, we do not consider these to be in scope of your request.

After a full review and assessment of the emails identified as including the requested words, and after consultation, it has been determined that the only references to 'the great reset' in the emails are passing comments used as references to theories or disinformation that were posted on-line, being reported in the media or to industry oversight bodies.

The emails identified as in scope are listed in the table below. I have decided to withhold two of these in full, and to release in part the other email, under the sections of the Act noted, as applicable:

	Date	Document	Decision
1.	5/01/2022	Email: Summery Summary and additional platform-level analysis 05/22	Withheld in full s9(2)(a) s9(2)(ba)(i) s9(2)(ba)(ii)
2.	19/04/2021	Email: FW: COVID-19 disinformation being spread	Withheld in full s9(2)(a) s9(2)(ba)(ii) s9(2)(g)(i)
3.	23/03/2021	Email chain: RE: NZ Herald - Covid and conspiracies	Some names and contact details withheld s6(a) and s9(2)(a)

In recent times the online environment has been a primary method of spreading misinformation and disinformation about a range of topics. Misinformation and disinformation have been increasingly implicated in an increase in online threatening behaviour and harmful offline impacts.

There is a need for further work to understand and address the underlying causes of misinformation and disinformation. Online service providers will also need to play a role in finding solutions, as well as affected communities. This is an issue common to many democracies and Aotearoa New Zealand will need to work with others as we seek a way forward.

In making my decision, I 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 my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

We do not intend to publish this response on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website.

Yours sincerely

Dan Eaton  
**Acting Deputy Chief Executive**  
**National Security Group**