

26 July 2022

Harold fyi-request-19609-2fa65ee9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2021/22-1403

Dear Harold

## Official Information Act request relating to Minutes of Disinformation Interagency Coordination Group

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 7 June 2022. You requested:

"In response to an earlier request I made for information relating to DPMC's work to establish a mis/disinformation resilience strategic framework (OIA-2021/22-1234), you advised me that:

"DPMC's COVID-19 Group chairs an inter-agency disinformation group, which has met fortnightly since 23 September 2021."

I have seen what is apparently the same group referred to as the "Interagency Coordination Group" which has been convened by DPMC "to support efforts to build resilience to false information" as in this document published on the Unite against Covid-19 website (p.9):

https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcovid19.govt.nz %2Fassets%2FProactive-Releases%2FReviews-and-audits%2F26-May-2022%2FCOVID-19-Response-Weekly-Report-17-December-2021.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cinformation%40dpmc.govt.nz%7Ca5410c37a308409ccb 3c08da4806f008%7Ceea6053309ef4b7a94060f38551cc613%7C0%7C0%7C6379014 92343079839%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQljoiV2I uMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Ft1pfC%2BZCoJae5B1SyWd2EmiNjxtxeiqfGMEFoRYMM0%3D&reserved=0

I would like to request copies of the agenda and minutes of all meetings of this group, dated from the beginning of September 2021 to the end of March 2022."

The time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 30 working days because it necessitated consultations to be undertaken before a decision could be made on your request. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

I can confirm that no meeting minutes for the inter-agency disinformation group for the requested period of 1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022 (dates inclusive) are held by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). Therefore, this part of your request is declined under section 18(e) as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found

DPMC can confirm that we hold agendas for the inter-agency disinformation group for the requested period. These are released to you in full in Annex A. Please note that itemised

agendas were only utilised from 1 January 2022. Before this period only a recurring standing agenda was prepared.

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

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