



24 August 2022

Scott

[fyi-request-20057-154e7363@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-20057-154e7363@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: OIA-2021/22-1548

Dear Scott

**Official Information Act request relating to the DPMC Emerging Technologies Working Group**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 28 July 2022, regarding the Emerging Technologies Working Group referred to on page five of the Cabinet Paper *Autonomous weapons systems: New Zealand policy position and approach for international engagement*. You requested:

- 1) *a copy of the terms of reference and operating protocol for this group*
- 2) *the date that this group was established and how frequently it meets; and,*
- 3) *unless this is included in the terms of reference, what agencies or organisations are included in the group's membership*

The Emerging Technology Policy Working Group was established in April 2021. It meets approximately once every 6-8 weeks to develop a holistic policy framework for managing the national security risks and opportunities associated with emerging technology within the New Zealand context.

Attached is a copy of the *Draft Terms of Reference* which I am releasing to you in full. These remain under review to account for progress in the Group's work as it develops its approach to emerging technology, including how its areas of focus are framed. This enables the working Group's tasks and direction to pivot as necessary to address priority issues as part of its work programme.

In response to the remainder of your request not covered by the release of this information, I can confirm that no operating protocol exists. Therefore, I am refusing that part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found, and that the membership of the emerging technologies working group is contained on page three of the released *Draft Terms of Reference*.

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

Tony Lynch  
**Deputy Chief Executive  
National Security Group**