

14 September 2022

GM George
fyi-request-20433-036bdc5d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear GM George

Request for Information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 1 September 2022, in which you requested the following:

The email titled "AVI YEMINI and Rukshan FERNANDES - Information sought - Criminal History" reads: Wellington has received information that the two above named are believed to be Australian nationals intending to travel to NZ to join protest activity at Parliament scheduled on 23 August 2022. NZ Police would like to stop the two from entering NZ and URGENTLY seek any information regarding criminal convictions or any information tending to show they are individuals of bad character, associated to criminal Groups and Individuals or Far Right. NZ Police do not hold any information on the two subjects. Further information: Both subjects are associated to NZ social media commentator Chantelle Baker and are expected to join her at the protest in Parliament, posing as reporters. • Avi YEMINI is noted by commentators as a Far right extremism commentator. Avi Yemini has proudly called himself at a London protest in 2018- "the world's proudest Jewish Nazi" • Rukshan FERNANDES is noted as a misinformation super spreader. Rukshan has been labelled as "hero" of anti-mandate, anti-vax, anti-govt movement. Questions:

- 1. Is it standard procedure for Interpol NZ to fish for information they can use to "stop" Australian citizens from crossing your border?*
- 2. Why did NZ Police want to stop the Australian nationals from attending the protest?*
- 3. Who at NZ Police made the The email titled "AVI YEMINI and Rukshan FERNANDES - Information sought - Criminal History" reads: Wellington has received information that the two above named are believed to be Australian nationals intending to travel to NZ to join protest activity at Parliament scheduled on 23 August 2022. NZ Police would like to stop the two from entering NZ and URGENTLY seek any information regarding criminal convictions or any information tending to show they are individuals of bad character, associated to criminal Groups and Individuals or Far Right. NZ Police do not hold any information on the two subjects.*

Further information: Both subjects are associated to NZ social media commentator Chantelle Baker and are expected to join her at the protest in Parliament, posing as reporters. • Avi YEMINI is noted by commentators as a Far right extremism commentator. Avi Yemini has proudly called himself at a London protest in 2018- "the world's proudest Jewish Nazi" • Rukshan FERNANDES is noted as a misinformation super spreader. Rukshan has been labelled as "hero" of anti-mandate, anti-vax, anti-govt movement. Questions:

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.

Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. www.police.govt.nz

1. Is it standard procedure for Interpol NZ to fish for information they can use to stop entry to New Zealand.

I request official documents regarding this matter to and from Interpol Wellington and Interpol Canberra.

The information you have requested has been withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- s6(a): as the making available of the information is likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government of New Zealand
- s6(b): as the making available of this information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by -
 - (i) the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government; or
 - (ii) any international organisation
- s6(c): as the making available of the information is likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences and the right to a fair trial
- s9(2)(a): to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Steve Dunn
Director - International Services Group
New Zealand Police