



133 Molesworth Street  
PO Box 5013  
Wellington 6140  
New Zealand  
T+64 4 496 2000

20 January 2023

P Taylor

By email: [fyi-request-21336-00b63754@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-21336-00b63754@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H2022018143

Tēnā koe

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your follow up request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 5 December 2022 for further information regarding the Manatū Hauora Disinformation Assessment and Response Team (DART). You requested:

*“Further to my previous request, H2022015932. I would like to request all communications between any member of the Disinformation Assessment and Response Team (DART) and Netsafe during the period of 01 January 2022 and 31 July 2022.”*

As you have previously been advised, the COVID-19 Disinformation Assessment and Response Team (DART) no longer exists. It was initially established as part of the Manatū Hauora National Immunisation Programme. DART transferred into the Communications and Engagement Group on 1 June 2022. Following that transfer, the work was rescoped to fit with the communications focus.

Five email chains have been identified within scope of your request. These are itemised in Appendix 1 and copies of the documents are enclosed. Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in releasing information and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

Please refer to the response to your previous request for information on the functions previously delivered by DART (H2022015932 refers).

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you require any further clarification or information, please contact [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz). Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MCCOY', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Megan McCoy  
**Acting Deputy Director-General**  
**Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga**

## Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
1	24 February 2022	Email Correspondence	Information is being withheld in full under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• section 6(c) as its release would likely prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial</li> <li>• section 9(2)(c) to avoid prejudice to measures to protect the health or safety of the public</li> <li>• section 9(2)(g)(ii) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment.</li> </ul>
2	14 March 2022 – 24 March 2022	Email: Netsafe and DART meeting	Some information is being withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons</li> <li>• section 9(2)(g)(ii)</li> </ul>
3	28 March 2022 – 27 June 2022	Email: Follow up to Meeting on Friday	Some information is being withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• section 9(2)(a)</li> <li>• section 9(2)(g)(ii)</li> </ul> <p>Information deemed out of scope of your request has been excluded.</p>
4	4 July 2022	Email: Report on Disinformation Harms and proposal for regular catchups	Some information is being withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• section 9(2)(ba)(i) to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and making it available would likely prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source</li> <li>• section 9(2)(g)(ii)</li> </ul>
5	6 July 2022 – 27 July 2022	Email: Netsafe and Dart Monthly Catchup	Some information is being withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• section 9(2)(a)</li> <li>• section 9(2)(g)(ii)</li> </ul> <p>Information deemed out of scope of your request has been excluded.</p>