



Te Tari Taiwhenua Internal Affairs

17 February 2023

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Email OIA@dia.govt.nz

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J Schofield

fyi-request-21370-8b7cb08c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear J Schofield,

Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA 22/23-0518

Thank you for your email of 9 December 2022 to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). On 20 January 2023, the below parts of your request were transferred to te Tari Taiwhenua | the Department of Internal Affairs (te Tari) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“ 3. I seek any communications relating to requests by NZ govt persons or entities and Twitter that seek to suppress or alter the dissemination of any information tweeted by any person known or thought to be either or both a New Zealand citizen/permanent resident and/or located within New Zealand (incl any overseas territory/overseas NZ govt controlled location);

5. I also request all documents held that constitute any discussion of suppression of any information whatsoever, between the same NZ Govt persons and twitter-related persons; and

6. I also request all documents held that constitute NZ-govt internal policies or discussions relating to the suppression or algorithmic alteration of the dissemination of information by Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.”

Below is te Tari’s response to your three points, in order.

Point three

Te Tari focuses on content rather than individuals. In those circumstances, we do not know if the person who has posted objectionable/illegal content is a New Zealand citizen or resident, nor where they are located. On said content, most individuals would not use their proper name when sharing objectionable or illegal material and this is not something that te Tari can enforce.

This may become an issue for the Online Content Host (OCH) which they can pursue, especially if the ‘tweeter’ is breaching the terms and conditions on the platform. We do not give any advice to the OCH’s on individuals accounts being suspended as this is a decision that OCH’s take under their own terms and conditions.

Please refer to our Transparency Report (the Report), which can be found on te Tari’s website here: www.dia.govt.nz/Countering-Violent-Extremism-Transparency-reports.

The Report explains our actions regarding content generally. For further details on the Take Down Notices, please refer to our Take-down Notice Guidance, which can be found here: [www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/New%20Zealand%20Online%20Process/\\$file/Take-down-Notice-Guidance.pdf](http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/New%20Zealand%20Online%20Process/$file/Take-down-Notice-Guidance.pdf).

Please note that our next transparency report will be available in late February to early March 2023.

Point five

Te Tari reports objectionable / illegal content, not individuals, and Te Tari does not suppress information. Te Tari ensures we reflect Aotearoa New Zealand's commitment to the rule of law, human rights, and fundamental freedoms – including privacy and freedom of expression.

Contact with Twitter is done via the Twitter's Partner Support Portal and no 'discussions' are made. Te Tari receives an automatic acknowledgement email which does not identify the content. There are no other documents created when using the portal.

Point six

Te Tari holds some meeting notes that fall within scope of this point. These notes involve commercially sensitive conversations. These are therefore being withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information is available on the website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

We intend to publish our response to your request on www.dia.govt.nz. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published in its entirety. Publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the Act's purpose of enabling more effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies and promoting the accountability of Ministers and officials.

Nāku noa nā



Jeremy Cauchi

Tumuaki | Director (Acting)

Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability Group