



27 February 2023

P Taylor
fyi-request-21371-aa6d0826@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2022/23-0410

Dear P Taylor

Official Information Act request for Communications with *The Disinformation Project* regarding commissioned reports

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 9 December 2022. You requested:

"1. In a document from a recent Official Information Act response from the DPMC, the DPMC states: "In the last month, DPMC contracted The Disinformation Project, who are now separate from Te Pūnaha Matatini, for two landscape reports and one deep dive report on a topic of choice."

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffyi.org.nz%2Frequest%2F20099%2Fresponse%2F76770%2Fattach%2F4%2F4600004%25201%2520OIA%2520202122%25201563%2520Harold.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cinformation%40dpmc.govt.nz%7C5b205f7d8b7e4f51565008dad98e6269%7Cea6053309ef4b7a94060f38551cc613%7C0%7C0%7C638061503458477750%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJB Tl6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Pojk90dz%2BquDRV6O7O1DxpzL1vBvnj13tUsI9t2RSEQ%3D&reserved=0>

2. In accordance with the Official Information Act 1982, I would like to request all communications, including but not limited to SMS, emails, and/or Signal messages, between The Disinformation Project and any official of the DPMC, that are associated with The Disinformation Project being commissioned to undertake the work for the two landscape reports and the one deep dive report mentioned above."

We wrote to you on 27 January 2023, extending the time limit for response by 21 working days, to 28 February 2023. The additional time was needed both because a large amount of information needed to be assessed for relevance to your request and to complete consultations making a final decision on your request. I am now in a position to respond.

Please find attached communications with 'The Disinformation Project' identified as being relevant to your request. The documents released to you are set out in the table below.

Doc No	Date	Subject Line or Title	Withheld information
Document 01	28/02/2022	Re: RFP Disinformation	Some information withheld under sections: 9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(ii)

Doc No	Date	Subject Line or Title	Withheld information
Document 02	25/03/2023	Fwd: Attached - RfP Online Harms	Some information withheld under sections: 9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(ii) Completed Request for Proposal withheld under: section 9(2)(ba).
Document 03	29/06/2022	Re: Contract for Services	Some information withheld under sections: 9(2)(a) 9(2)(ba) 9(2)(c) 9(2)(g)(ii)
Document 04	30/06/2022	Re: Minor amendments to the contract	Some information withheld under sections: 9(2)(a) 9(2)(ba) 9(2)(c) 9(2)(g)(ii)
Document 05	11/07/2022	Reporting of online harms and threats against the Covid response - fortnightly report (1)	Some information withheld under sections: 9(2)(a) 9(2)(ba) 9(2)(c) 9(2)(g)(i) 9(2)(g)(ii)
Document 06	25/07/2022	Reporting of online harms and threats against the Covid-19 Response: Fortnightly Update 25 July 2022 For the period 8 July to 22 July 2022	Some information withheld under sections: 6(d) 9(2)(a) 9(2)(ba) 9(2)(c) 9(2)(g)(i) The covering email has been withheld in full under sections: 6(d) 9(2)(a) 9(2)(c)
Document 07	15/08/2023	Re: RE: Invoice due 10 august - TDP Vendor ID 38114902	Some information withheld under sections: 6(d) 9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(ii)
Document 08	14/09/2022	Re: Explanation of change of term to RFP	Some information withheld under sections: 9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(ii)

Some information in these documents has been withheld under the following sections of the Act, as marked in the documents:

- section 6(d) to protect the safety of any person.
- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals.
- section 9(2)(ba), to protect the supply of similar information in the future and/or to prevent damage to the public interest, where information was provided in confidence.
- section 9(2)(c), to protect the health or safety of members of the public.
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.
- section 9(2)(g)(ii), to prevent improper pressure or harassment.

In addition, there were some documents identified as relevant to your request that have been withheld in full. A description of the withheld communication and sections under the Act that it has been withheld under are listed below:

- Completed request for proposal form (attachment to Document 02) has been withheld under section 9(2)(ba) of the Act.
- Some email correspondence that was largely administrative about the payment of invoices has been withheld under sections: 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba) and 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act.
- The covering email for the report released to you as Document 06 has been withheld under section 6(c) – to protect maintenance of the law, 6(d), 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(c) of the Act.
- One report and its covering email have been withheld in full, the email under sections: 6(d), 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba), 9(2)(g)(i) and 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act and the report itself under sections 6(d) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.

Where information has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, no public interest in releasing the withheld information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response may be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely

Tony Lynch
Deputy Chief Executive
National Security Group

Enc: correspondence in scope of the request