



22 May 2023

P Taylor

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

Ref: OIA-2022/23-0410

Dear P Taylor

Additional information released to you in response to your Official Information Act request regarding *The Disinformation Project* commissioned reports

I refer to 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%7Ceea6053309ef4b7a94060f38551cc613%7C0%7C0%7C638061503458477750%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Pojk90dz%2BquDRV6O7O1DxpzL1vBvnj13tUsl9t2RSEQ%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."

In the light of your complaint to the Ombudsman, we have reassessed the report the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) received from *The Disinformation Project* that was previously withheld in full.

Given the passage of time, the concerns relating to the release of the report have reduced. Accordingly, I have decided to release the report to you. Please find attached a copy of the report from *The Disinformation Project* titled "*Differential experiences of the pandemic, the infodemic, and information disorders – disinformation impacts for Māori*". Some names have been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act, to prevent improper pressure or harassment. This was the final report prepared for COVID-19 Group and the contract between parties concluded after delivery.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding that information.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Lynch', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tony Lynch
Deputy Chief Executive
National Security Group

Enc: Copy of report from *The Disinformation Project*