



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

9 February 2023

45 Pipitea Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011

PO Box 805, Wellington

Phone 04 495 7200

Email OIA@dia.govt.nz

dia.govt.nz

Erika Whittome

fyi-request-21503-7d2bd264@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Erika,

Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA 22/23-0493

Thank you for your email of 2 January 2023 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) about access to the Facebook takedown portal:

- 1. All of the settings in your system (eg screenshots of the settings saved in a word document)*
- 2. INCLUDING the users and keywords flagged in your system (eg in an excel spreadsheet)*
- 3. The guidelines and objective documents used to complete the initial set up this Takedown Portal.*
- 4. This request is for all of 2022 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2022.*

I have provided an answer to each of your questions below.

Question one

I can advise that this is not a Te Tari Taiwhenua | The Department of Internal Affairs (Te Tari) system, it is a Meta / Facebook Reporting system. Te Tari does not have access to the settings or have the ability to change anything. Te Tari also does not have access to the backend to see or create a screenshot.

Question two

The system you refer to is a reporting system, not a search system. As outlined above, Te Tari are using the Meta / Facebook Reporting system to notify of objectionable content and content related to Terrorist or Violent Extremist Content that breaches Meta / Facebook Terms and Conditions.

Therefore, questions one and two are refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

Question three

The Meta / Facebook Reporting system was set up by Meta / Facebook. The documents that are held by Te Tari, provided by Meta/Facebook, in relation to guidelines and other documents are withheld in full under section 6(b)(ii) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by any international organisation.

Additional information

Please see the following link to view Te Tari's 2021 Transparency Report: www.dia.govt.nz/Countering-Violent-Extremism. On pages 10 to 20, you will be able to understand how we get our public reports, non-governmental organisation (NGO) and government referrals. On page nine, there is an explanation of how the Meta Reporting Tool is used.


You may be interested to know that Facebook itself has some very comprehensive guidelines for law enforcement to report content. These can be found on the following link: www.facebook.com/safety/groups/law/guidelines.

Te Tari will be publishing its second annual transparency report for the year of 2022 at the end of February 2023, which will include statistics that may be of interest to you. We publish this report so that New Zealanders can gauge the value of our work for themselves. The report for 2022 will be made available here: www.dia.govt.nz/digital-safety-downloadable-resources.

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.

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Cauchi
Acting Director Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability