



AI  
fyi-request-22505-bb8a108b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2022/23-0837

Dear AI

**Official Information Act request for Misinformation or disinformation reports that were referenced in a previous OIA response**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 19 April 2023. You requested:

*“In this OIA from 2022:  
<https://fyi.org.nz/request/19264/response/75179/attach/2/OIA%202021%2022%201440%20A%20Response.pdf>*

*It mentioned that commissioning had been done for these 3 reports with suppliers:  
- trends in disinformation narratives and the impacts of these on the New Zealand public health response;  
- New Zealanders’ knowledge, attitudes and behaviours regarding COVID-19 misinformation; and  
- best practice in scanning online, open-source material for the purposes of understanding the online information landscape.*

*Could I please be provided with the reports (if they exist) and who developed them, how much it cost if it the suppliers were from outside of government, and what they were used for or contributed to.”*

I have identified 5 documents that were produced for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for the projects listed above. I can advise that each report contributed to a broader understanding on the misinformation and disinformation landscape relating to COVID-19.

For ease of reference, the relevant documents are set out in the table below.

Project	Supplier	Reports	Decision	Cost
Trends in disinformation narratives and the impacts of these on the New Zealand public health response	The Disinformation Project	Reporting of online harms and threats against the Covid-19 Response, 11 July 2022  Reporting of online harms and threats against the Covid-19 Response, 25 July 2022  Differential experiences of the pandemic, the infodemic, and	Release in part, s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(c), s6(d), s9(2)(ba), s9(2)(g)(ii)	\$27,000 excl GST

		information disorders – disinformation impacts for Māori		
New Zealanders' knowledge, attitudes and behaviours regarding COVID-19 misinformation	Kantar Survey	Unite against the COVID-19 infodemic, September 2022	Refused under 18(d), soon to be publicly available	S9(2)(i), s9(2)(b)(ii)
Best practice in scanning online, open-source material for the purposes of understanding the online information landscape	Brainbox	Appropriate Frameworks for Social Media Analysis Report released previously.	Released in full	S9(2)(i), s9(2)(b)(ii)

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld as noted. The relevant grounds under which information has been withheld are:

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

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.

This response will 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.

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

Yours sincerely

Tony Lynch  
**Deputy Chief Executive**  
**National Security Group**