



15 June 2023

L.K. Harris
fyi-request-23074-9ec19afa@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2022/23-0999

Dear L.K. Harris

Official Information Act request relating to application of the OIA to the social media accounts of MPs, Ministers and government departments

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 10 June 2023. You requested:

“Are the official blue tick verified Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, or any other such social media accounts used by MP’s, the Prime Minister, or any Government department listed in the OIA register, defined as “personal” profiles, or are they indeed subject to OIA requests?”

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) is only able to comment in relation to our social media presence. I can advise that any official DPMC social media channels are subject to the Official Information Act. However, personal social media accounts of DPMC staff are not subject to the Act as Section two of the Act defines official information as any information held by a public service agency or Minister of the Crown in their official capacity.

For further information on requests for Official Information Act the Office of the Ombudsman is best placed to provide guidance. The Office of the Ombudsman helps New Zealanders work with public sector agencies, and their responsibilities include addressing complaints, conducting investigations and inspections, and promoting effective administration.

The Ombudsman may be able to help you. Please call 0800 802 602 (+64 4 473 9533) or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to make an Official Information Act request to an organisation subject to the Act please find a link to the Directory of Official Information:

www.justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/directory-of-official-information/

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

We do not intend to publish this response on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet’s website.

Yours sincerely

Clare Ward
Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement