Office of the Prime Minister

MP for Remutaka

Minister for National Security and Intelligence Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



Aziz fyi-request-23821-b8a83a46@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 2023-334

Tēnā koe Aziz

Official Information Act request relating to the strategic framework on preventing and countering violent extremism

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 14 August 2023. You requested:

"At He Whenua Taurikura in November 2022, then Prime Minister Ardern announced the Violent Extremism Strategic Framework would soon be released.

I would like to request a copy of the Strategic Framework, and the summary of Public submissions that was also promised.

I would also like to request a copy of all briefings and emails the Prime Minister and his office have received on these documents, in his capacity as Prime Minister or Minister for National Security and Intelligence, since coming into power."

Work is ongoing to finalise the Violent Extremism Strategic Framework, and decisions have yet to be taken by Ministers or Cabinet.

Therefore, information regarding the Violent Extremism Strategic Framework is refused under section 18(a) of the Act, as, by virtue of s 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, the information is withheld in full to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Minister of the new Crown and officials.

You can read about the work on the Strategic Framework and counter-terrorism more generally, here: https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/counter-terrorism

It is worth noting, that since 2022, alongside work on the Strategic Framework, priorities in the National Security and Intelligence portfolio have included:

- Finalisation and release of Aotearoa New Zealand's first ever National Security Strategy - https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/aotearoas-national-security-strategy-secure-together-tatou-korowai-manaaki
- Updating Aotearoa New Zealand's National Security Intelligence Priorities -https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/proactive-release-aotearoa-new-zealands-national-security-intelligence-priorities
- Engagement with the public on what national security means to New Zealanders, including through the 2023 National Security Public Survey https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/2023-national-security-survey-report
- Preparation by agencies of the National Security Long-term Insights briefing -<u>https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/national-security-long-term-insights-briefing</u>

- Work on strengthening resilience to disinformation https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/strengthening-resilience-disinformation
- Work on countering foreign interference https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/countering-foreign-interference

I also note that the Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Fund was established to support community and civil society organisations to deliver initiatives that counter and build resilience to violent extremism and radicalisation. The second round of this fund will open shortly. A summary of the initiatives funded in round one can be found here: https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/counter-terrorism/preventing-and-countering-violent-extremism-fund

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 my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Ngā mihi nui,

Andrew Kirton Chief of Staff