



23 January 2025

Mr John Wilson

By email only: fyi-request-29268-0a2a09b7@requests.fyi.org.n

Dear Mr Wilson

Official information request for material relating to the designation of Hezbollah and Ansar Allah

Our Ref: OIA353/1

1. I refer to your official information request to DPMC dated 20 November for:
 - All briefing documents related to the decision to designate Hezbollah in its entirety and Ansar Allah (also known as The Houthis) as terrorist entities.
 - Please also include related correspondence and documents, such as communications with the Attorney-General and the Prime Minister, National Security Board papers, and any communications or engagement plans.
2. As you know, Part 1 of your request was transferred to Crown Law, as it relates to information held by us, on 3 December 2024.
3. We have decided to refuse your request as it is not for material covered by the Official Information Act. The information you have requested is information held by Crown Law on behalf of the Attorney-General in respect of one of her functions as Law Officer, in this case under s 22(4) of the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002. The Ombudsman's Office has previously accepted that Law Officer information falls outside the scope and jurisdiction of the Official Information Act 1982. We do not consider that releasing this information to you would be justified in the public interest.
4. In any event, even if the Official Information Act did apply, the information you seek is subject to legal professional privilege and could be withheld under s 9(2)(h) of the Official Information Act. Consistently with the paragraph above we do not consider the public interest in maintaining privilege is outweighed by any public interest in disclosing this information.

Proactive release

5. Please note that we may publish this response (with your personal details redacted), and any related documents, on Crown Law's website if we decide proactive release of this information is or may be in the public interest. If you have

any concerns about this, please let us know within 10 working days of the date of this letter.

6. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.
7. If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Kim Laurensen.

Yours faithfully
Crown Law

Kim Laurensen
Crown Counsel/Team Manager