Hon Brooke van Velden

MP for Tāmaki
Minister of Internal Affairs
Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety

3 0 JAN 2025

Terry Thomas
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Thank you for your email of 13 December 2024 in which you requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

-   *Please provide information on all communications with your office and the National Library or any other department, on a lecture scheduled for the National Library for February 2025 that has now been cancelled by Professor Moon due to interference by library officials in the content and promotion of the lecture.*

On 13 December 2024 I was made aware that Paul Moon had a scheduled lecture at the National Library and that he had cancelled. I then spoke to Rachel Esson, the National Librarian responsible for the National Library of New Zealand, about the matter and was assured by Ms Esson that while the communication between the National Library and Paul Moon was not up to standard, the National Library takes freedom of expression very seriously and will work with its staff on how to better engage with speakers in the future. I was also assured that Paul Moon is still welcome to speak at the National Library and this had been communicated to him directly.

A staff member in my office also spoke to Rachel Esson and a communications manager in the National Library on 13 December 2024 to inform them that I would issue a ministerial press release about the matter. The press release can be found here:
https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/assurance-received-national-library-freedom-expression

Accessing the Ombudsman

You have a 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.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Brooke van Velden
Minister of Internal Affairs