



14 December 2023

Scott
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Ref: OIA-2022/23-0177

Dear Scott

Official Information Act request relating to Documents related to the ODESC, NCMC and NSG responses to the Christchurch terror attacks

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 27 September 2022. You requested:

"I would like to make a request for documents relating to the ODESC, National Crisis Management Centre and National Security Group responses to the 2019 Christchurch terror attacks and memorial service (Operation Deans and Operation Unity). I would like to request copies of:

ONE: The agenda, minutes and action points for all ODESC meetings for Operations Deans and Unity, dated between 15 March and 3 April 2019.

TWO: A list of all documents submitted or tabled at these meetings, including the title, agency of origin and date submitted or tabled.

THREE: All ODESC notes prepared for the Prime Minister on the topics of Operations Deans and Unity, dated between 15 March and 3 April 2019.

FOUR: The agenda, minutes and action points for all meetings of the Operations Deans and Unity ODESC Watch Groups, dated 15 March to 3 April 2019.

FIVE: All reports submitted to ODESC by the Operations Deans and Unity ODESC Watch Groups, dated 15 March to 3 April 2019.

SIX: All National Crisis Management Centre situation reports and intelligence summaries produced for Operations Deans and Unity, dated 15 March to 3 April 2019.

SEVEN: The report-back of the National Security Group to the Security Intelligence Board and Prime Minister on the topic of the implementation of the recommendations of the Post Operation Deans National Security System Review (June 2019), which was scheduled to be completed by the end of 2019."

The Department of the Prime Minister apologises for the extended delay in providing this information. I can advise that 87 documents have been identified as within scope and required extensive consultation that took significantly longer than anticipated to complete. For ease of reference I have addressed each question in turn, but please note the information released across this response to your request answers part 2, and as such, part 2 is not specifically addressed.

Information being released

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

- Section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand
- Section 6(b)(i), to protect the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government
- Section 6(c), to protect the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
- Section 6(d), to maintain the safety of any person
- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals
- section 9(2)(ba)(i), to protect the supply of similar information in the future
- section 9(2)(c), to protect the health or safety of members of the public
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion
- section 9(2)(g)(ii), to prevent improper pressure or harassment
- section 9(2)(k), to prevent disclosure or use for improper gain or advantage

Question 1 The agenda, minutes and action points for all ODESC meetings for Operations Deans and Unity, dated between 15 March and 3 April 2019.

Item	Date	Document Title	Decision
1.	15 March 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #1 Agenda	Release in part s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(k)
2.	15 March 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #1 Minutes	Release in part s6(d), s9(2)(a), s6(a), s9(2)(k)
3.	16 March 2019	ODESC Agenda	Release in part s6(a), s9(2)(k)
4.	16 March 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #2 Minutes	Release in part 9(2)(a), s6(d), s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(k)
5.	17 March 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #3 Agenda	Release in part s9(2)(k)
6.	17 March 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #3 Minutes	Release in part s6(d), s9(2)(a), s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(k)
7.	20 March 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #4 Agenda	Release in part s9(2)(k)
8.	20 March 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #4 Minutes	Release in part s6(d), s9(2)(a), s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(k)
9.	25 March 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #5 Agenda	Release in part s6(a), s9(2)(k)
10.	25 March 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #5 Minutes	Release in part s6(d), s9(2)(a), s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(ba)(i), s9(2)(k)

11.	27 March 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #6 Agenda	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(k)
12.	27 March 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #6 Minutes	Release in part s6(d), s9(2)(a), s6(a), s9(2)(k)
13.	28 March 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #7 Agenda	Release in part, s9(2)(k)
14.	28 March 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #7 Minutes	Release in part s6(d), s9(2)(a), s6(a)
15.	3 April 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #8 Agenda	Release in part s6(a), s9(2)(k)
16.	3 April 2019	Operation DEANS ODESC #8 Minutes	Release in part s6(d), s9(2)(a), s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(k)

Question 2 A list of all documents submitted or tabled at these meetings, including the title, agency of origin and date submitted or tabled

Item	Date	Document Title	Decision
1.	28 March 2019	Briefing: Operation UNITY (National Remembrance Service)	Release in part s6(a)

A further document titled *Counter-Terrorism Playbook* has been identified as in scope of this part of your request. This document is subject to a non-publication order, and therefore we are refusing to provide a copy under section 18(c) of the Act, as the making available of this information would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment and/or would constitute contempt of court or of the House of Representatives.

Other documents identified as being in scope of this part of your request are provided in the attached release documents as part of our response to your other questions.

Question 3 All ODESC notes prepared for the Prime Minister on the topics of Operations Deans and Unity, dated between 15 March and 3 April 2019.

Item	Date	Document Title	Decision
1.	15 March 2019	[Email] Notes for PM conversation	Release in part s9(2)(g)(ii), s6(a), s9(2)(a)
2.	17 March 2019	Briefing: Op DEAN (Christchurch shootings)	Release in part s9(2)(g)(i)
3.	17 March 2019	Briefing: Op DEANS (Christchurch Shootings)	Release in part s6(a)
4.	20 March 2019	Briefing: Op DEANS: ODESC #4, 20 March 2019	Release in part s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
5.	25 March 2019	Briefing: Op DEANS: ODESC #5, 25 March 2019	Release in part s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
6.	29 March 2019	Key points ODESC #7 (Op UNITY)	Release in part s6(a)
7.	5 April 2019	Op DEANS: ODESC #8, 3 April 2019	Release in part s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Question 4 The agenda, minutes and action points for all meetings of the Operations Deans and Unity ODESC Watch Groups, dated 15 March to 3 April 2019

Item	Date	Document Title	Decision
1.	16 March 2019	Christchurch Shooting Watch Group #1	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(k)
2.	16 March 2019	Christchurch Shooting Watch Group #1 Minutes	Release in part, s6(a), s6(d), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(c), s9(2)(k)
3.	17 March 2019	Christchurch Mosque Shooting Watch Group #2	Release in part, s6(a), s6(c), s6(d), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(k)
4.	18 March 2019	Op DEANS Watch Group #3 Agenda	Release in part, s9(2)(k)
5.	18 March 2019	Christchurch Mosque Shooting Watch Group #3 Minutes	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(k), s6(b)(i)
6.	19 March 2019	Op DEANS Watch Group #4 Agenda	Release in part, s9(2)(k)
7.	19 March 2019	Christchurch Mosque Shooting Watch Group #4 Minutes	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(a), s6(c), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(k)
8.	20 March 2019	Op DEANS Watch Group #5 Agenda	Release in part, s9(2)(k)
9.	20 March 2019	Christchurch Mosque Shooting Watch Group #5 Minutes	Release in part, s6(a), s6(c), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(k)
10.	21 March 2019	Op DEANS Watch Group #6 Agenda	Release in part, s9(2)(k)
11.	21 March 2019	Christchurch Mosque Shooting Watch Group #6 Minutes	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(k)
12.	22 March 2019	Op DEANS Watch Group #7 Agenda	Release in part, s9(2)(k)
13.	22 March 2019	Christchurch Mosque Shooting Watch Group #7 Minutes	Release in part, s6(a), s6(b)(i) s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(c), s9(2)(k)
14.	23 March 2019	Op DEANS Watch Group #8 Agenda	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(k)
15.	23 March 2019	Christchurch Mosque Shooting Watch Group #8 Minutes	Release in part, s6(a), s6(c), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(k)
16.	25 March 2019	Op DEANS Watch Group #9 Agenda	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(k)
17.	25 March 2019	Christchurch Mosque Shooting Watch Group #9 Minutes	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(k), s9(2)(g)(i)
18.	26 March 2019	Op DEANS Watch Group #10 Agenda	Release in part, s9(2)(k)
19.	26 March 2019	Christchurch Mosque Shooting Watch Group #10 Minutes	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(k)
20.	27 March 2019	Op DEANS Watch Group #11 Agenda	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(k)

21.	27 March 2019	Christchurch Mosque Shooting Watch Group #11 Minutes	Release in part, s6(a), s6(c), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(k)
22.	2 April 2019	Op DEANS Watch Group #13 Agenda	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(k)
23.	2 April 2019	Christchurch Mosque Shooting Watch Group #13 Minutes	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(k)

Question 5 All reports submitted to ODESC by the Operations Deans and Unity ODESC Watch Groups, dated 15 March to 3 April 2019

Item	Date	Document Title	Decision
1.	19 March 2019	Report: Watch Group of 18 March: Christchurch Mosque Shootings	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
2.	19 March 2019	Report: Watch Group of 19 March: Christchurch Mosque Shootings	Release in part, s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
3.	21 March 2019	Report: Watch Group of 21 March: Christchurch Mosque Shootings	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(c)
4.	23 March 2019	Report: Watch Group of 22 and 23 March: Christchurch Mosque Shootings	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(c)

Question 6 All National Crisis Management Centre situation reports and intelligence summaries produced for Operations Deans and Unity, dated 15 March to 3 April 2019

Item	Date	Document Title	Decision
1.	17 March 2019	Situation Report: 0600 17 March 2019	Release in part, s9(2)(a), s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
2.	17 March 2019	Situation Report: 1155 17 March 2019	Release in part, s9(2)(a), s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
3.	17 March 2019	Situation Report: 1655 17 March 2019	Release in part, s9(2)(a), s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
4.	18 March 2019	Situation Report: 0600 18 March 2019	Release in part s6(c), s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
5.	18 March 2019	Situation Report: 1200 18 March 2019	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
6.	18 March 2019	Situation Report: 1700 18 March 2019	Release in part, s9(2)(a) s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
7.	19 March 2019	Situation Report: 0600 19 March 2019	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
8.	19 March 2019	Situation Report: 1155 19 March 2019	Release in part, s6(a), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
9.	19 March 2019	Situation Report: 1700 19 March 2019	Release in part, s9(2)(a), s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
10.	20 March 2019	Situation Report: 0600 20 March 2019	Release in part, s9(2)(a), s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
11.	20 March 2019	Situation Report: 1200 20 March 2019	Release in part, s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
12.	20 March 2019	Situation Report: 1700 20	Release in part, s9(2)(g)(ii),

		March 2019	s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(c), s9(2)(ba)(i)
13.	21 March 2019	Situation Report: 0600 21 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(ba)(i), s6(a)
14.	21 March 2019	Situation Report: 1200 21 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(ba)(i), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(g)(ii)
15.	21 March 2019	Situation Report: 1700 21 March 2019	Release in part, s9(2)(ba)(i), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii), s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
16.	22 March 2019	Situation Report: 0600 22 March 2019	Release in part, s9(2)(ba)(i), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii), s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
17.	22 March 2019	Situation Report: 1200 22 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(g)(ii)
18.	22 March 2019	Situation Report: 1700 22 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(g)(ii)
19.	23 March 2019	Situation Report: 0800 23 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(g)(ii)
20.	23 March 2019	Situation Report: 1700 23 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(g)(ii)
21.	24 March 2019	Situation Report: 0800 24 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(g)(ii)
22.	24 March 2019	Situation Report: 1700 24 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(k)
23.	25 March 2019	Situation Report: 0600 25 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(k)
24.	25 March 2019	Situation Report: 1700 25 March 2019	Release in part s6(a), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(k)
25.	26 March 2019	Situation Report: 0600 26 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(k)
26.	26 March 2019	Situation Report: 1700 26 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(k)
27.	27 March 2019	Situation Report: 0600 27 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(k)
28.	27 March 2019	Situation Report: 1700 27 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(k)
29.	28 March 2019	Situation Report: 0600 28 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(k)
30.	28 March 2019	Situation Report: 1700 28 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(k)
31.	29 March 2019	Situation Report: 0600 29 March 2019	Release in part s6(a), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(k)
32.	29 March 2019	Situation Report: 1700 29 March 2019	Release in part s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(k)
33.	30 March 2019	Situation Report: 1500 30 March	Release in full
34.	31 March 2019	Situation Report: 1500 31 March	Release in full
35.	2 April 2019	Situation Report: 1500 2 April	Release in part s9(2)(k)
36.	3 April 2019	Situation Report: 1500 3	Release in part s9(2)(k)

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Question 7 *The report-back of the National Security Group to the Security Intelligence Board and Prime Minister on the topic of the implementation of the recommendations of the Post Operation Deans National Security System Review (June 2019), which was scheduled to be completed by the end of 2019.*

Item	Date	Document Title	Decision
1.	16 December 2019	Coversheet for SIB Item 5	Release in part, s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii), s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

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

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Kitteridge
Chief Executive