

Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



Matthew Hooton

fyi-request-16069-c7bf04fe@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 2021-148

Dear Matthew Hooton

Official Information Act request relating to regarding 'They Are Us'

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 13 July 2021. You requested:

"Under the Official Information Act, please advise on what date (i) any member of your office staff and (ii) you personally first became aware of the proposed film project which has developed into "They Are Us". I seek only the two dates."

On Wednesday 9 June 2021 at 2:09 pm, the Deputy Chief Executive of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage (MCH) made a phone call to the Private Secretary Arts, Culture and Heritage in this Office, notifying that MCH received advice from the New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) that a film relating to the March 15 attacks was being announced in the next 24-48 hours. The Prime Minister was made aware of the film shortly after this on the same day.

You may wish to refer to the following media articles where the Prime Minister has discussed this and the Written Parliamentary Questions on the topic:

- <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/jacinda-ardern-says-christchurch-mosque-attacks-film-very-soon-and-raw>
- <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/entertainment/christchurch-mosque-shootings-they-are-us-movie-jacinda-ardern-says-her-story-not-the-one-to-be-told/3LN3R44TZYYPKBIUTJKTKVCGYQ/>
- <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/>

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

Yours sincerely

Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff