

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



Cameron Slater
fyi-request-16710-ee201017@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 2021-221

Dear Cameron Slater

Official Information Act request relating to relating to communications between the Office of the Prime Minister and Dr Siouxsie Wiles

Thank you for your email of 27 October 2021 requesting we reassess our previous response. You wrote:

"Thank you for the response. How ever the text messages were not included. I did not ask for a summary of events I asked for the actual data.

Secondly, there is a precedent regarding the release of private emails set when a similar OIA request was made for the text messages between John Key and myself. Those message were supplied in full.

Thirdly, both the Prime Minister and Siouxsie Wiles are subject to the OIA, including their communications. Siouxsie Wiles is a civil servant employed by an agency that is itself subject to the OIA. She has also been a very public face regarding health measures during the pandemic, it is of public interest what those communications said.

Fourthly, those communications may in fact be defamatory against myself, if the text messages released by the Ministry of Health and Ashley Bloomfield are anything to go by. At the very least they should preserved pending discovery motions and any legal proceedings that may occur.

Please reconsider actually complying with the OIA and provide the information as requested.

I note that your office was extremely tardy in replying and in breach of the Act, so please ensure you are no longer in breach otherwise I will be forced to go to the Ombudsmen and use the precedent to compel those messages being disclosed."

Thank you for noting your preference to receive copies of the text message, over the summary we provided. We note that Section 16(e) of the Act allows for summaries to be supplied in response to requests. However, you are also entitled to receive the information in a format of your preference. Therefore, we have decided to release the text to you.

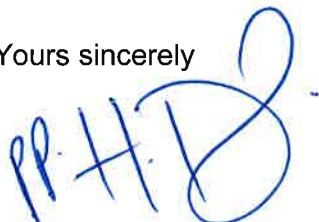
Please note that some information is withheld under section 9(2)(a). As noted in our previous response, this information is comprised of observations relating to being subject to public scrutiny and is, in our view, of a personal nature. We do not believe this exchange is relevant to the professional capacities of either Dr Wiles or the Prime Minister, and as such believe it does not warrant release, nor do we believe it is in the public interest that such information be released.

In making our decision, we have considered the public interest considerations as set out under section 9(1) of the Act.

As noted previously, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review our decision under section 28(3) of the Act. You can contact the Ombudsman by:

- freephone on 0800 802 602,
- email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz,
- in writing PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143, or
- online complaint form: ombudsman.parliament.nz/get-help-public/make-complaint-members-public

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Raj Nahna', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff



Siouxsie >

Kia ora Jacinda, hope you are as well as can be expected despite everything. I just thought I'd give you a heads up that Cam Slater thinks he has a scoop about me breaking level 4 rules and I've no idea if this is the sort of thing you may end up being asked to comment on! I went to Judges Bay with one of my bubble-mates a few days ago and we sat on the beach and chatted without masks on. That bay is super shallow and protected so she went for a 2 min paddle. There were only about 2 other groups on the beach so it's really depressing that one of them filmed me and is trying to use that film to discredit me. I guess that's my life now! All the best, Siouxsie

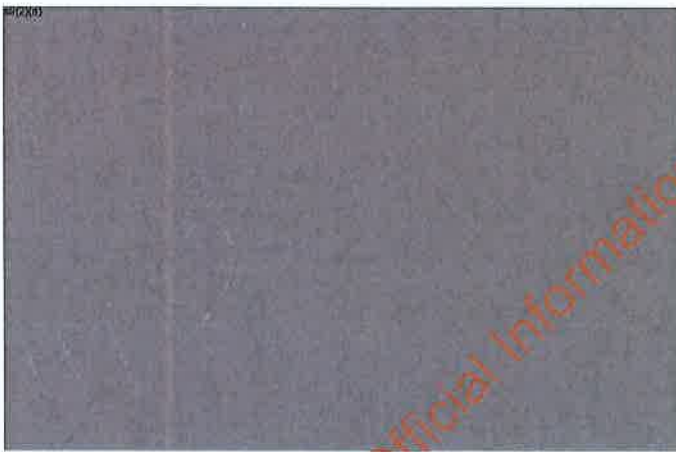


iMessage





Siouxie >



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