



17 December 2021

Sebastian

Via email: fyi-request-17604-970cde81@requests.fyi.org.nz

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Tēnā koe Sebastian

Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 17 November 2021 (ref OIA2122-0418)

Thank you for your OIA request dated 17 November 2021 to the Department of Internal Affairs (Department). Your request was as follows –

“In regards to the OIA request I made to your agency which recently received your response by email, I would like to make a request for copies of some of the documents you referred to:

I would like to request copies of the following reports produced for DIA by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue:

- 1) Storming of the US Capitol Building on 06 January 2021*
- 2) Dominant Covid-19 Narratives Among New Zealand Extremists and Conspiracy Theorists*
- 3) Two Years On: understanding the Resonance of the Christchurch Attack among Online Extremists*
- 4) Gender in the New Zealand Online Ecosystem*
- 5) QAnon in New Zealand*
- 6) 1080 and Online Extremism in New Zealand*
- 7) Gun Amnesty Discussions among New Zealand Extremists Online*
- 8) New Zealand Extremism Quarterly report 1st April 2021 – 30th June 2021*

These Department Intelligence Briefs:

- 1) United States Presidential Inauguration 2021 (21 January 2021)*
- 2) Operation Christchurch (16 March 2021)*
- 3) Lynn Mall Violent Extremist Attack (5 September 2021)*

And these other documents:

- 1) Online scanning guide (21 July 2021)*
- 2) Classifications process (15 February 2021)*
- 3) Managing content translation (13 April 2021)*
- 4) Legal services (18 February 2021)”*

Documents in scope of your request

The **15** documents in scope of your request have been collated in Appendices A – C which are summarised in the tables attached to this letter.

Principle of availability

The guiding principle for considering your request for official information is the principle of availability (section 5 of the OIA), that is, information must be made available on request unless there is good reason for withholding it. “Good reason” for withholding is defined in the OIA under a number of grounds. It is against these grounds that the Department considered whether to withhold official information in this case.

Withholding grounds applicable under section 6 of the OIA

The Department has considered the conclusive reasons for withholding information that are not subject to the public interest test, listed in section 6 of the OIA. The Department considers two section 6 grounds apply to all the documents in Appendices A and B. The Department is therefore withholding the documents contained in Appendices A and B in full under the following grounds:

- section 6(a), where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand; and
- section 6(c), where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.

The Department is also withholding Document 1, Appendix C in full under section 6(c) of the OIA, but is providing a brief summary of the document’s contents in the table at Appendix C.

If you are dissatisfied with the Department’s decision on your request for information, you have the right, under section 28 of the OIA, to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman. The Office of the Ombudsman can be contacted by phone on 0800 802 602, via post at PO Box 10152 Wellington or via email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Ngā mihi



Jared Mullen
Director
Digital Safety

Appendix A

Document number	Title	Date	Comments
Document 1	Briefing – by Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) “Storming of the US Capitol Building on 06 January 2021”	29 January 2021	<i>Withheld in full under section 6(a) and 6(c) of the OIA.</i>
Document 2	ISD Briefing “Dominant Covid-19 Narratives Among New Zealand Extremists and Conspiracy Theorists”	18 February 2021	<i>Withheld in full under section 6(a) and 6(c) of the OIA.</i>
Document 3	ISD Ethnographic Briefing “Two Years On: Understanding the Resonance of the Christchurch Attack among Online Extremists”	2021	<i>Withheld in full under section 6(a) and 6(c) of the OIA.</i>
Document 4	ISD Briefing “Gender in the New Zealand Online Extremist Ecosystem”	2021	<i>Withheld in full under section 6(a) and 6(c) of the OIA.</i>
Document 5	ISD Briefing “QAnon in New Zealand”	2021	<i>Withheld in full under section 6(a) and 6(c) of the OIA.</i>
Document 6	ISD Briefing “1080 and Online Extremism in New Zealand”	2021	<i>Withheld in full under section 6(a) and 6(c) of the OIA.</i>
Document 7	ISD Briefing “Gun Amnesty Discussions among New Zealand Extremists Online”	2021	<i>Withheld in full under section 6(a) and 6(c) of the OIA.</i>
Document 8	ISD Quarterly Snapshot: “New Zealand Extremism Quarterly report 1 st April 2021 – 30 th June 2021”	30 June 2021	<i>Withheld in full under section 6(a) and 6(c) of the OIA.</i>

Appendix B

Document number	Title	Date	Comments
Document 1	Department Intelligence Brief "United States Presidential Inauguration 2021"	21 January 2021	<i>Withheld in full under section 6(a) and 6(c) of the OIA.</i>
Document 2	Department Intelligence Brief "Operation Christchurch"	16 March 2021	<i>Withheld in full under section 6(a) and 6(c) of the OIA.</i>
Document 3	Department Intelligence Brief "Lynn Mall Violent Extremist Attack"	5 September 2021	<i>Withheld in full under section 6(a) and 6(c) of the OIA.</i>

Appendix C

Document number	Title	Date	Comments
Document 1	Online Scanning Guide	21 July 2021	<i>Withheld in full under section 6(c) of the OIA and summarised below.</i> This online scanning guide developed for Digital Safety provides an overview for staff of how to gather open-source information to gain a better understanding of the online environment. It also details how to safely operate online.
Document 2	Classifications process	15 February 2021	<i>Released in full.</i>
Document 3	Managing Content Translation	13 April 2021	<i>Released in full.</i>
Document 4	Legal Services	18 February 2021	<i>Released in full.</i>