



5 August 2022

Ali Anwar  
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Ref: OIA-2021/22-1505

Dear Ali Anwar

### Official Information Act request regarding the selection of Professor Jackson

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 12 July 2022. You requested:

*“1- all communications within DPMC around the selection of Professor Jackson from 1 February 2022 onwards to the current day.  
2- all communications with outside parties, particularly including terrorist lobby groups like the Israel Institute of New Zealand, regarding the appointment of Professor Jackson. This should extend from the point at which the establishment of the Centre for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism began to be considered to the current day.”*

To provide some context, He Whenua Taurikura was established in response to a recommendation of the Royal Commission of Inquiry report into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain. He Whenua Taurikura is hosted by Victoria University of Wellington, with the appointments process for the Co-Directors being undertaken by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC).

Further background information can be found in the press statement on the launch of He Whenua Taurikura on 3 June 2022 on the Beehive website at: [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/centre-preventing-and-countering-violent-extremism-officially-open](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/centre-preventing-and-countering-violent-extremism-officially-open).

Additional information is available on the DPMC website at: [dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/counter-terrorism/he-whenua-taurikura](http://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/counter-terrorism/he-whenua-taurikura).

In response to your first question for internal communications, I have decided to withhold the information within scope in full under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals;
- 9(2)(ba)(i), to protect the supply of similar information in the future, where information has been provided in confidence; and
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

In response to your second question for external communications, I have decided to release to you the following documents, as set out in the table below. Some information has been withheld, as marked, under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i) as noted above

Title or Subject	Description
He Whenua Taurikura co-Director role RE: He Whenua Taurikura	Emails advising Professor Kidman of the decision to proceed with her appointment and confirmation of her appointment offer after referee and due diligence checks are completed.
HWT Centre Co-Director role	Emails with candidate whose appointment did not progress.
RE: Confidential concern; and RE: The Rescinded appointment of Professor Richard Jackson as director of the National Centre of Research Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism	Emails with third parties regarding appointment that did not progress

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.

We do not intend to publish this response on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website.

Yours sincerely

Tony Lynch  
**Deputy Chief Executive**  
**National Security Group**