



17 April 2024

Matthew Whitehead  
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Ref: OIA-2023/24-0673

Tēnā koe Matthew Whitehead

**Official Information Act request relating to plans for archiving Ministerial communications on personal devices**

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act (the Act), received on 19 March 2024. You requested:

*“For context, recently some advice to a minister was released implying only communications on ministerial devices are subject to the OIA or need archiving for such requests.*

- 1. As the guidance is very clear that communications on personal devices are presumed to be subject to the OIA until Ministers demonstrate that they are not, what future plans and current systems do DPMC and Cabinet currently have in place under the current government to ensure Ministerial or potentially Ministerial communications on private devices and accounts are properly auditable for official requests?*
- 2. And is the prime minister confident that ministerial communications executed on private devices and accounts are being declared, captured, and archived appropriately when they inevitably happen by accident or not?*

*I am a New Zealand citizen currently residing in New Zealand.”*

I am extending the time for transfer of your request due to the consultations necessary to confirm if relevant information was held elsewhere. This extension was to 18 April 2024. Following consultations, I now believe the part [1] of your request for information regarding plans for archiving Ministerial communications on personal devices is more closely connected to the functions of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). Accordingly, I have decided to transfer this part of your request to the Department of Internal Affairs under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. Part [2] of your request will remain with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. DIA has the usual timeframes under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

I have also decided to extend the time limit on part [2] of your request, in accordance with section 15A of the Act, by an additional 5 working days to 3 May 2024. This extension is required due to the consultations necessary to respond to your request. Despite the extension, we will send you a response as soon as possible.

Nāku noa, nā

Amy Teague  
**Manager, Ministerial Services**