

# Office of the Prime Minister

MP for Remutaka

Minister for National Security and Intelligence  
Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



07 MAR 2023

James  
fyi-request-21384-4bce0493@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 2022-395

Tēnā koe James

## Official Information Act request for information about Clarke Gayford's phone call with a Pharmacist

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 10 December 2022.

You have requested:

*"The information I am seeking relates to the pharmacist phone call involving Clarke Gayford, your fiancé.*

*For some context, I have outlined your previous refusal to provide any information below.*

*At the time of the incident, as widely reported by multiple media outlets, you "Refused to comment on the issue".*

*As per RNZ article published 13th January 2021*

*"Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is refusing to comment on claims her fiancé tried to get rapid antigen tests (RATs) for his musician friends despite them not being eligible"*

*Furthermore, despite the story being first reported by an accredited Press Gallery member Thomas Coughlan, you have point blank refused to answer any questions from journalists.*

*Lastly, if the musicians seeking the RAT kits were close contacts they would have been immediately contacted by the MOH and a full "Health Risk Assessment" carried out.*

*Thus, why the musicians were urgently seeking their own testing and the assistance of Mr Gayford is a valid and reasonable question.*

*In the interests of transparency, integrity and public confidence in the govt it is vital the PM avoids or declares any conflicts of interest, including the perception of conflicts of interest.*

*With that in mind I seek the following information.*

- 1) When were you first made aware DJ Dimension (Robert Etheridge) had broken Covid 19 protocols and who informed you? Please provide all communications concerning DJ*

*Dimension including but not limited to texts, emails and phone relating to DJ Dimension between the dates of 28th of December 2021 and January 13th 2022.*

- 2) *What was the exact date and time Mr Gayford was on the phone to the pharmacist in Tauranga, where the musicians were seeking RAT kits?*
- 3) *When were you made aware Mr Gayford had been on the phone with the pharmacist in Tauranga and who informed you?*
- 4) *Please provide all communications including but not limited to emails, texts and phone calls relating to Mr Gayford's phone conversation with the Tauranga pharmacist inclusive of communications involving Office of the Prime Minister.*
- 5) *Please provide all communications including but not limited to emails, texts and phone calls involving Mr Gayford if he had contact with any government officials or members of your staff regarding music festivals, or musicians involved with the music festivals between the dates of December 28th 2021 and 13th of January 2022.*
- 6) *Further, any communications between Mr Gayford and any promoter/festival owner/director involved in essential worker visas for DJ Dimension in the 12 months prior to 28th December 2021, Again communications for this request are limited to the period between December 28th and 13th of January 2022.*
- 7) *Did you have contact or involvement whatsoever with Mr Gayford's lawyers, legal advisors or management between the dates of December 29th 2021 to 13th January 2021. If yes, please provide all details and communications including but not limited to emails, phone calls and texts”*

### **Part One**

I can advise that the former Prime Minister has not had any communications with or about Robert Etheridge between 28 December 2021 and 13 January 2022.

As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

As you may be aware, the Minister for COVID-19 addressed the matter of the first community case of Omicron at a press conference on 30 December 2021.

### **Part Two**

The information you have requested in this part of your request is not “official information” as defined in section 2 of the OIA. Please be advised that official information means any information held by a public service agency; or a Minister of the Crown in their official capacity; or an organisation.

Mr Gayford is not a Minister of the Crown, and is not subject to the OIA. Accordingly, I am refusing Part Two of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA because this Office does not hold any “official information” relevant to this part of your request.

### **Part Three**

The Prime Minister does not hold the information you have requested in her official capacity as a Minister of the Crown. Given the nature of this subject, I consider it important to clarify that she was made aware of the phone call occurring in her personal capacity. Part Three of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held.

### **Part Four and Five**

We have interpreted this part of the request to be for all communications held by this office in relation to Mr Gayford's phone conversation with the Tauranga pharmacist. Please note that as this office can only answer in so far as the information we hold.

Please find attached information within the scope of your request. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
12 Jan 2022	FW: Complaint in relation to attempted influence by Clarke Gayford	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect personal privacy.
13 Jan 2022	RE: Clarke Gayford    comment	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect personal privacy.
13 Jan 2022	Final response signed off by PM	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect personal privacy.
13 Jan 2022	RE: Final response signed off by PM	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect personal privacy.
13 Jan 2022	RE: PM Response to [redacted under section 9(2)(a)]	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect personal privacy.
13 Jan 2022	FW: Questions	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect personal privacy.
13 Jan 2022	RE: Questions	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect personal privacy.

Further identified as information within the scope of your requests are text messages containing advice provided to the former Prime Minister from the Chief Press Secretary relating to this Office’s media response.

These text messages are withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

### **Part Six**

The Office does not consider the information you have requested in this part of your request is “official information” as defined in section 2 of the OIA.

Mr Gayford is not subject to the OIA. Accordingly, I am refusing Part Six of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA because this Office does not hold any “official information” relevant to this part of your request.

### **Part Seven**

The former Prime Minister did not have contact or involvement with Mr Gayford’s lawyers, legal advisors, or management between 29 December 2021 and 13 January 2021.

Part Seven of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the OIA because this Office does not hold any “official information” relevant to that part of your request.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a vertical line and a small dot at the end.

**Andrew Kirton**  
**Chief of Staff**

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 January 2022 6:08 pm  
**To:** Andrew Campbell  
**Subject:** FW: Complaint in relation to attempted influence by Clarke Gayford

**Importance:** High

FYI

Section 9(2)(a) | Press Secretary  
**Office of the Prime Minister of New Zealand**  
Section 9(2)(a)

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**From:** Holly Donald Section 9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Wednesday, 12 Jan 2022, 4:13 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: Complaint in relation to attempted influence by Clarke Gayford

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

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**From:** Le Roy Taylor Section 9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 11 Jan 2022, 10:41 AM  
**To:** Holly Donald Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: Complaint in relation to attempted influence by Clarke Gayford

Hi Holly,

I will call you to discuss possible response.

Thanks,  
LRT

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 January 2022 10:39 AM  
**To:** Le Roy Taylor Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: Complaint in relation to attempted influence by Clarke Gayford  
**Importance:** High

Kia ora Le Roy,

DPMC have passed the following email along as PMO would be the best place to answer it considering the implications made against Clarke.

Is this something I can leave with you?

Ngā mihi,

Section 9(2)(a) **Private Secretary (Executive Support)**

**Office of the Prime Minister**

Section 9(2)(a)

Authorised by Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

**From:** Information [DPMC] [<mailto:information@dpmc.govt.nz>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 January 2022 10:28 AM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a)

**Subject:** FW: Complaint in relation to attempted influence by Clarke Gayford

**Importance:** High

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Section 9(2)(a)

As discussed

Ngā mihi

Margaret

**Margaret Noonan (she/her)**

Team Leader (Acting) Ministerial Services

Strategy, Governance and Engagement

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Section 9(2)(a)



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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Thursday, 6 January 2022 9:43 AM

**To:** Information [DPMC] <[information@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:information@dpmc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Complaint in relation to attempted influence by Clarke Gayford

To whom it may concern,

As a pharmacy offering Ministry of Health (MoH) funded Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) for COVID-19, we were approached at approximately 5.15pm on Wednesday 29th of December by a group of vaccinated musicians stating that they had been potentially exposed to COVID-19 and wanted to be tested.

As per the MoH guidelines, the RAT is available to unvaccinated, non-symptomatic individuals over the age of 12 years who are needing proof of a negative test for travel, with some pharmacy discretion available around this. This service is not intended to give people 'peace of mind'

Also, as per MoH guidelines, those who have been exposed to COVID-19 (especially close contacts) should isolate and get a PCR test as soon as possible.

As from their description it appeared to me that they were potentially close contacts of a case, I explained to them that they needed to get a PCR test as this was not the intention of the RAT. Their reason for wanting the RAT today was so that they could continue to perform at a concert this evening, which would obviously not be in the interest of public safety if any of them have contracted COVID-19 and the use of a RAT would not be appropriate to clear them to do this.

The person from the group who I was communicating with was unimpressed by my response and told me she was going to call someone named Clarke. After talking to this person, she then put them on speaker and placed her phone down so that they could speak to me. It was at this point that I learnt from the name on the phone and the voice that this was Clarke Gayford.

Clarke proceeded to tell me that the guidance on the RAT has changed and that this group should be given a test and then they would get a PCR test at the later time. As I explained to him, we have not had any directive from the MoH of a change of guidance and that due to their exposure they needed to have a PCR test immediately and we would not be offering them a RAT.

He directly expressed his displeasure with my response before returning to speaking to the person representing the group of musicians, who promptly left after realising they would not be influencing my decision.

I believe it is very inappropriate for Mr Gayford to attempt to use the influence he has (or is perceived to have) as partner of the prime minister to:

1. Tell a private business what services they should or shouldn't be offering to customers
2. Tell a registered health professional how they should do their job
3. Telling acquaintance's what they should do after potential exposure to COVID-19 in direct contradiction of the public health advice given by the Ministry of Health, potentially putting many more people at risk of exposure

I would appreciate a response as to the events that occurred.

Regards,

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Pharmacist/Dispensary Manager - Life Pharmacy Bayfair |

**Physical Address:** Bayfair Shopping Centre, Girven Road, Mount Maunganui, Tauranga 3116

**Postal Address:** Shop T204 Bayfair Shopping Centre, Girven Road, Mount Maunganui, Tauranga 3116

**Phone:** Section 9(2)(a) **Fax** Section 9(2)(a)

**Email:** Section 9(2)(a)

**Website** [www.lifepharmacy.co.nz](http://www.lifepharmacy.co.nz)

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 9:22 am  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a) PMOmedia  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell; Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Clarke Gayford || comment

Hi all - I'll go back to <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup> on this one. Cheers!

Section 9(2)(a) | Press Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister of New Zealand  
Section 9(2)(a)

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 Jan 2022, 9:07 AM  
**To:** PMOmedia Section 9(2)(a)

Andrew Campbell

Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Clarke Gayford || comment

Kia ora,

May we request a comment from the Prime Minister in regard to allegations Clarke Gayford gave misleading advice and tried to subvert Ministry of Health advice.

Thank you,

Section 9(2)(a)  
Political Producer

Section 9(2)(a)



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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 9:53 am  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** PMOmedia; Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Clarke Gayford || comment  
**Attachments:** image006.jpg; image005.jpg

Kia ora <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

A spokesman for the Prime Minister had no comment and referred to the statement issued on behalf of Gayford.

Cheers,  
<sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

<sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup> | Press Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister of New Zealand  
<sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

---

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 Jan 2022, 9:07 AM  
**To:** PMOmedia <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

Andrew Campbell

<sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>  
**Subject:** Clarke Gayford || comment

Kia ora,

May we request a comment from the Prime Minister in regard to allegations Clarke Gayford gave misleading advice and tried to subvert Ministry of Health advice.

Thank you,

<sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>  
Political Producer

<sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>



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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 3:17 pm  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a) PMOmedia; Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Clarke Gayford || comment

Kia ora,

We, along with other media outlets, have been refused the statement issued on behalf of Mr Gayford. In light of not having the full and complete comment to accurately report his position, we effectively do not have the statement you refer us to. May we please request a new statement that acknowledges this gap?

Thank you,

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 9:53 AM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** PMOmedia <PMOmedia@parliament.govt.nz>; Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Clarke Gayford || comment

Kia ora Lillian,

A spokesman for the Prime Minister had no comment and referred to the statement issued on behalf of Gayford.

Cheers,  
Zach

Section 9(2)(a) | Press Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister of New Zealand  
Section 9(2)(a)

---

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 Jan 2022, 9:07 AM  
**To:** PMOmedia Section 9(2)(a) Andrew Campbell  
**Section 9(2)(a)**  
**Subject:** Clarke Gayford || comment

Kia ora,

May we request a comment from the Prime Minister in regard to allegations Clarke Gayford gave misleading advice and tried to subvert Ministry of Health advice.

Thank you,

Section 9(2)(a)  
Political Producer

Section 9(2)(a)



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**From:** Andrew Campbell **Section 9(2)(a)**  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 2:44 pm  
**To:** **Section 9(2)(a)**  
**Subject:** Final response signed off by PM

Hi **Section 9(2)(a)**

Can you organise for the below response to be sent back to the pharmacist from the PM. PM has signed off on this version which is slightly reordered.

Andrew

Dear **Section 9(2)(a)**

Thank you for your email dated xxx.

Firstly, can I acknowledge the incredibly important role pharmacies have played, and continue to play in our response to the COVID 19 pandemic. It has been invaluable.

In terms of the issue you raise in your letter, Clarke and I apologise for any issues this situation has caused.

You will be aware that Clarke was rung by a friend about Rapid Antigen Testing and was put on speaker phone while that person was in your pharmacy. It was not his intention to become involved, and as your letter sets out, he didn't identify himself.

I absolutely agree with you that registered public health professionals and public health officials should always be the source of advice for individuals and the decision makers in these situations.

Yours sincerely

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** Andrew Campbell Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 2:58 pm  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Final response signed off by PM

Thank you 🙏

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 Jan 2022, 2:45 PM  
**To:** Andrew Campbell Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Final response signed off by PM

Of course – will liaise with <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup> team now to get it sent.

Section 9(2)(a) | Press Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Section 9(2)(a)

Authorised by Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

*Please note information about meetings related to the Ministers' portfolios will be proactively released (this does not include personal or constituency matters). For each meeting in scope, the summary would list: date, time (start and finish), brief description, location, who the meeting was with, and the portfolio. If you attend a meeting with the Minister on behalf of an organisation, the name of the organisation will be released. If you are a senior staff member at an organisation, or meet with the Minister in your personal capacity, your name may also be released. The location of the meeting will be released, unless it is a private residence. The proactive release will be consistent with the provisions in the Official Information Act, including privacy considerations. Under the Privacy Act 1993 you have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. If you'd like to ask for a copy of your information, or to have it corrected, or are concerned about the release of your information in the meeting disclosure, please contact the sender. You can read more about the proactive release policy at <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases#MS>*

**From:** Andrew Campbell  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 2:44 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Final response signed off by PM

Hi <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

Can you organise for the below response to be sent back to the pharmacist from the PM. PM has signed off on this version which is slightly reordered.

Andrew

Dear <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

Thank you for your email dated xxx.

Firstly, can I acknowledge the incredibly important role pharmacies have played, and continue to play in our response to the COVID 19 pandemic. It has been invaluable.

In terms of the issue you raise in your letter, Clarke and I apologise for any issues this situation has caused.

You will be aware that Clarke was rung by a friend about Rapid Antigen Testing and was put on speaker phone while that person was in your pharmacy. It was not his intention to become involved, and as your letter sets out, he didn't identify himself.

I absolutely agree with you that registered public health professionals and public health officials should always be the source of advice for individuals and the decision makers in these situations.

Yours sincerely

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 3:19 pm  
**To:** ^Parliament: Holly Donald; Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** ^Parliament: Leroy Taylor; Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: PM Response to Section 9(2)(a)

Yep, will do  
Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Holly Donald  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 3:18 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Le Roy Taylor Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: PM Response to Section 9(2)(a)

Thanks all.

**Holly Donald** | Deputy Chief of Staff  
**Office of the Prime Minister**  
Section 9(2)(a)

Authorised by Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 3:17 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Le Roy Taylor Section 9(2)(a); Holly Donald Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** PM Response to Section 9(2)(a)

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Following on from your discussions with Le Roy regarding the email from Section 9(2)(a) sent on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January – would we be able to get the below response (approved by the PM) sent to Section 9(2)(a) today?

(FYI for Holly Section 9(2)(a) to close the loop from the email chain earlier this week)

Thank you!

Dear Section 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email dated xxx.

Firstly, can I acknowledge the incredibly important role pharmacies have played, and continue to play in our response to the COVID 19 pandemic. It has been invaluable.

In terms of the issue you raise in your letter, Clarke and I apologise for any issues this situation has caused.



You will be aware that Clarke was rung by a friend about Rapid Antigen Testing and was put on speaker phone while that person was in your pharmacy. It was not his intention to become involved, and as your letter sets out, he didn't identify himself.

I absolutely agree with you that registered public health professionals and public health officials should always be the source of advice for individuals and the decision makers in these situations.

Yours sincerely

Section 9(2)(a) | Press Secretary

Office of the Prime Minister

Section 9(2)(a)

Authorised by Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 4:44 pm  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a) Andrew Campbell  
**Subject:** FW: Questions

Hi both,

Please see follow up from Section 9(2)(a) - Suggesting the below:

Kia ora Section 9(2)(a)

Thanks for sending this through post discussion.

Our previous response provided to you stands. Mr Gayford's statement is not ours to issue, but that full statement is publicly available.

It's also worth noting that Mr Gayford's statement was publicly available on the Herald website before we referred anyone else to it.

Cheers,  
Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Press Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister of New Zealand  
Section 9(2)(a)

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 Jan 2022, 4:19 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Questions

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

So further to our conversation:

1. The opposition wants to know whether Gayford has previously been giving help on matters of Covid policy like this. Yes, he's a private citizen, but it's fair to believe the likely reason his friend called him was because of his relationship with the PM.
2. PMO was referring media to a statement that Gayford's management initially did not provide. I'm aware PMO does not act for Mr. Gayford, but I was wondering whether PMO had any view or perspective on whether it was appropriate to refer media to something they were not able to obtain.

Best

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 5:02 pm  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** PMOmedia  
**Subject:** RE: Questions

Kia ora Section 9(2)(a)

Thanks for sending this through post call.

Our previous response provided to you stands. Mr Gayford's statement is not ours to issue, but that full statement is publicly available.

It's also worth noting that Mr Gayford's statement was publicly available on the Herald website before we referred anyone else to it.

Cheers

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Press Secretary

**Office of the Prime Minister of New Zealand**  
Section 9(2)(a)

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 Jan 2022, 4:19 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Questions

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

So further to our conversation:

1. The opposition wants to know whether Gayford has previously been giving help on matters of Covid policy like this. Yes, he's a private citizen, but it's fair to believe the likely reason his friend called him was because of his relationship with the PM.
2. PMO was referring media to a statement that Gayford's management initially did not provide. I'm aware PMO does not act for Mr. Gayford, but I was wondering whether PMO had any view or perspective on whether it was appropriate to refer media to something they were not able to obtain.

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 5:03 pm  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Questions

Oh I've just come back to you on your original email. Thanks for checking though.

<sup>5a</sup> | Press Secretary  
**Office of the Prime Minister of New Zealand**  
Section 9(2)(a)

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 Jan 2022, 4:57 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Re: Questions

Just checking you didn't want to say anything to this. I took it from our call that you just wanted to know what we were writing about.

---

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 13 January 2022 16:19  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Questions

Hi <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

So further to our conversation:

1. The opposition wants to know whether Gayford has previously been giving help on matters of Covid policy like this. Yes, he's a private citizen, but it's fair to believe the likely reason his friend called him was because of his relationship with the PM.
2. PMO was referring media to a statement that Gayford's management initially did not provide. I'm aware PMO does not act for Mr. Gayford, but I was wondering whether PMO had any view or perspective on whether it was appropriate to refer media to something they were not able to obtain.

Best

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**From:** Andrew Campbell **Section 9(2)(a)**  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 4:47 pm  
**To:** **Section 9(2)(a)**  
**Subject:** RE: Questions

Fine with that. Thanks

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

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**From:** **Section 9(2)(a)**  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 Jan 2022, 4:44 PM  
**To:** **Section 9(2)(a)** Andrew Campbell  
**Section 9(2)(a)**  
**Subject:** FW: Questions

Hi both,

Please see follow up from **Section 9(2)(a)** - Suggesting the below:

Kia ora **Section 9(2)(a)**

Thanks for sending this through post discussion.

Our previous response provided to you stands. Mr Gayford's statement is not ours to issue, but that full statement is publicly available.

It's also worth noting that Mr Gayford's statement was publicly available on the Herald website before we referred anyone else to it.

Cheers,  
**Section 9(2)(a)**

**Section 9(2)(a)** | Press Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister of New Zealand  
**Section 9(2)(a)**

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**From:** **Section 9(2)(a)**  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 Jan 2022, 4:19 PM  
**To:** **Section 9(2)(a)**  
**Subject:** Questions

Hi **Section 9(2)(a)**

So further to our conversation:



1. The opposition wants to know whether Gayford has previously been giving help on matters of Covid policy like this. Yes, he's a private citizen, but it's fair to believe the likely reason his friend called him was because of his relationship with the PM.
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