

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



Ali Anwar

fyi-request-19894-2b4ef176@requests.fyi.org.nz

12 AUG 2022

Ref: PMO 2022-216

Tēnā koe Ali Anwar

Official Information Act request for the Prime Minister's beliefs regarding statements about Israel

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 26 July 2022. You requested:

"It appears that you have decided to appoint the extreme anti-Palestinian activist Paul Spoonley to head the Centre for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. Spoonley is notorious for his role in the so-called 'Antisemitism Survey of New Zealand 2021', which conflates opposition to the genocide of Palestinian human beings in their indigenous homeland with antisemitism.

Does the Prime Minister, as the Zionist extremist Spoonley does, believe it is antisemitic to state:

** "Israel is an apartheid state" (as have all major human rights organisations and multiple UN representatives)?*

** "Israel is committing mass murder" (as it has since its inception)?"*

Referring to your statement that the Prime Minister appointed Paul Spoonley to the role of Co-Director at He Whenua Taurikura, this Office would like to note that the Centre 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.

Additional information is available on the DPMC website at:

dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/counter-terrorism/he-whenua-taurikura.

Regarding your questions on the Prime Minister's beliefs, please note that there is no obligation on a Minister of the Crown or public sector agency to create information in order to respond to a request under the Act. Consequently, as your questions would require this Office to form an opinion in order to respond, a response to your request is declined.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review our decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials and a large loop.

Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff