13 January 2022

J Schofield
fyi-request-21370-8b7cb08c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2022/23-0413

Dear J Schofield

Official Information Act request for communications with Twitter's SRT-GET and SIP-PES

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) of 9 December 2022.

You have requested:

1. *"I request all documents held that constitute communications between the Prime Minister, other Ministers, or other NZ Government officials, agencies or agents and; Twitter's Strategic Response Team - Global Escalation Team (SRT-GET), and Twitter's Site Integrity Policy, Policy Escalation Support (SIP-PES).*

2. *Please consider SRT-GET and SIP-PES to include any known/potential members of that team, and any high ranked officials/employees at Twitter. Specifically but not exclusively this includes Jack Dorsey, Vijaya Gadde, Yoel Roth, Parag Agrawal, as identified as SIP-PES members by Ms Bari Weiss.*

3. *I seek any communications relating to requests by NZ govt persons or entities and Twitter that seek to suppress or alter the dissemination of any information tweeted by any person known or thought to be either or both a New Zealand citizen/permanent resident and/or located within New Zealand (incl any overseas territory/overseas NZ govt controlled location).*

4. *I also request all documents held that may constitute similar discussions or communications that may be of any international public interest.*

5. *I also request all documents held that constitute any discussion of suppression of any information whatsoever, between the same NZ Govt persons and twitter-related persons.*

6. *I also request all documents held that constitute NZ-govt internal policies or discussions relating to the suppression or algorithmic alteration of the dissemination of information by Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.*

   I limit the period covered by this request to the period between 1 January 2019 and today's date (9 December 2022).

Please reference the #TwitterFiles by journalists Matt Tiabbi and Bari Weiss, brought to us by Twitter's new owner, notable gigachad Elon Musk.

Specifically;

"12. The group that decided whether to limit the reach of certain users was the Strategic Response Team - Global Escalation Team, or SRT-GET. It often handled up to 200 "cases" a day.
13. But there existed a level beyond official ticketing, beyond the rank-and-file moderators following the company's policy on paper. That is the "Site Integrity Policy, Policy Escalation Support," known as "SIP-PES.
14. This secret group included Head of Legal, Policy, and Trust (Vijaya Gadde), the Global Head of Trust & Safety (Yoel Roth), subsequent CEOs Jack Dorsey and Parag Agrawal, and others".

These tweets are available from this link – www.twitter.com/bariweiss/status/1601007575633305600?s=20&t=WcJ7Tf3x9l-nPdSwEOGK6g"

I believe that a portion in Parts One and Two of your request for communications is more closely connected to the functions of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern. Please note that I have extended the 10 working day time-limit available to make this transfer. This extension was required because of the consultations needed to make a decision on your request.

For clarity, I am referring to your request for communications between the Prime Minister and "*Twitter's Strategic Response Team - Global Escalation Team (SRT-GET), and Twitter's Site Integrity Policy, Policy Escalation Support (SIP-PES)* [including] *any known/potential members of that team, and any high ranked officials/employees at Twitter. Specifically but not exclusively this includes Jack Dorsey, Vijaya Gadde, Yoel Roth, Parag Agrawal, as identified as SIP-PES members by Ms Bari Weiss*" (Twitter).

Accordingly, I have decided under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to transfer these parts of your request to the Prime Minister. The other parts of the request have not been transferred, and we will respond in due course.

The Prime Minister has the usual timeframes under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

Yours sincerely

Amy Teague
Manager, Ministerial Services