



21 December 2023

P Taylor  
Via FYI.org.nz  
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Tēnā koe P Taylor

**Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA 23/24-0382**

I am responding to an email received from the Office of the Ombudsman of 24 November 2023 in regard to your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request of 20 December 2022 requesting the following:

1. *In a previous request, communications between the Department of Internal Affairs and the Institute for Strategic Dialogue revealed that the following reports were provided to the Department of Internal Affairs:*
  - a. *Storming of the US Capitol Building on 06 January 2021.*
  - b. *Dominant Covid-19 Narratives Among New Zealand Extremists and Conspiracy Theorists.*
  - c. *Two Years On: Understanding the Resonance of the Christchurch Attack among Online Extremists.*
  - d. *Gender in the New Zealand Online Ecosystem.*
  - e. *QAnon in New Zealand.*
  - f. *1080 and Online Extremism in New Zealand.*
  - g. *Gun Amnesty Discussions among New Zealand Extremists Online.*
  - h. *New Zealand Extremism Quarterly report 1st April 2021 – 30th June 2021.*
2. *In accordance with the Official Information Act 1982, I would like to request all of the reports, listed above, provided to the Department of Internal Affairs from the Institute for Strategic Dialogue.*

Thank you for confirming your eligibility with the Office of the Ombudsman.

In response, please find the eight documents you mention above attached and enclosed as **Appendix A**. Some information in these documents is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- section 6(a) of the Act, where making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand; and
- section 6(c) of the Act, where making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.

In terms of section 6(a), Te Tari Taiwhenua | Department of Internal Affairs (The Department) has determined that releasing some information within these documents would likely result in a real and substantial risk to the security or defence of New Zealand. In particular, their release could lead to adverse effects such as failures to deter criminal activity in future. The release would also significantly undermine the intelligence operations of the Department and, in turn, detrimentally impact on the nation's security.

In terms of section 6(c), the Department has determined that releasing some information within these documents would also raise a real and substantial risk to the maintenance of the law by harming the prevention, investigation and detection of objectional material. The release would also jeopardise our ability to scan the internet and gather relevant information in future operations.

### **Access to the Ombudsman**

If you are dissatisfied with our decision on your request for information, you have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman. The Office of the Ombudsman can be contacted by phone on 0800 802 602, via post at PO Box 10152 Wellington or via email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Ngā mihi



Jeremy Cauchi

**Tumuaki | Director Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability**

## Appendix A

Document number	Title	Date	Decision	Grounds under the Act
Document 1	Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) Briefing: Storming of the US Capitol Building on 06 January 2021	29 January 2021	Partially released	6(a) 6(c)
Document 2	ISD Briefing: Dominant Covid-19 Narratives Among New Zealand Extremists and Conspiracy Theorists	18 February 2021	Partially released	6(a) 6(c)
Document 3	ISD Ethnographic Briefing: Two Years On: Understanding the Resonance of the Christchurch Attack among Online Extremists	2021	Partially released	6(a) 6(c)
Document 4	ISD Briefing: Gender in the New Zealand Online Extremist Ecosystem	2021	Partially released	6(a) 6(c)
Document 5	ISD Briefing: QAnon in New Zealand	2021	Partially released	6(a) 6(c)
Document 6	ISD Briefing: 1080 and Online Extremism in New Zealand	2021	Partially released	6(a) 6(c)
Document 7	ISD Briefing: Gun Amnesty Discussions among New Zealand Extremists Online	2021	Partially released	6(a) 6(c)
Document 8	ISD Quarterly Snapshot: New Zealand Extremism Quarterly report 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	30 June 2021	Partially released	6(a) 6(c)