

14 June 2023

DOIA23/104

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

I refer to your request received on 27 April 2023, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) for information on the commemoration of the March 15 terrorist attack. On 27 April 2023, the Ministry contacted you to advise that the initial wording of the request was very broad and would be difficult to search for, noting that a search for "March 15" would extract every email sent or received on March 15 (regardless of subject matter). After subsequent emails from the Ministry on 1 and 4 May 2023, you provided a clarification to your request. This is repeated below:

1. *Can I please request any advice, correspondence, documents on engagements or consultations (including decisions/outcomes of engagements/consultations) with members of the Muslim community and groups, to Ministers on this topic (to commemorate the anniversary of March 15) in the last two years?*
2. *Can I have any documents relating to the provision of a survey on the commemoration of March 15 with Muslim communities and individuals. This includes a full list of survey questions, total respondents and the groups or individuals that took part.*
3. *Any advice on decisions to play the adhaan on radio to commemorate March 15.*
4. *Can I also have all advice, correspondences and information on engagements and consultation with leaders of Linwood and Al Noor (this includes any organisation or individuals representing them), and the 15 March Whanau Trust and the Sakinah Trust (or any of their representatives/members) about any commemoration, memorial, remembrance or others related events on the Christchurch terror attacks?*

We are also aware that you have made the same request to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. We note that this request was extended to allow for consultation with these agencies.

Much of the information you have asked about (e.g communications with leaders of the community and the community itself as well as the undertaking of the survey and advice relating to the broadcasting of the adhaan) has been led by the Ministry for Ethnic Communities. We considered whether a transfer was required, however as you have already made the same request to this agency, we do not consider this necessary.

However, we are releasing to you excerpts from Status Reports to the Minister. This is a provided on a fortnightly basis relating to issues within the Arts, Culture and Heritage portfolio. These documents are listed below:

Document title
BR2021/470 Arts, Culture and Heritage Status Report for fortnight beginning 23 August 2021
BR2021/573 Arts, Culture and Heritage Status Report for fortnight beginning 11 October 2021
BR2021/698 Arts, Culture and Heritage Status Report for fortnight beginning 22 November 2021

BR2021/732 Arts, Culture and Heritage Status Report for fortnight beginning 6 December 2021
BR2022/077 Arts, Culture and Heritage Status Report for fortnight beginning 21 February 2022
BR2022/150 Arts, Culture and Heritage Status Report for fortnight beginning 4 April 2022
BR2022/224 Arts, Culture and Heritage Status Report for fortnight beginning 16 May 2022
BR2022/246 Arts, Culture and Heritage Status Report for fortnight beginning 30 May 2022
BR2022/515 Arts, Culture and Heritage Status Report for fortnight beginning 3 October 2022
BR23/109 Arts, Culture and Heritage Status Report (fortnight beginning 13 March 2023)
BR23/157 Arts, Culture and Heritage Status Report for fortnight beginning 10 April 2023

In addition, there is one paper that substantively refers to the subject you have asked about. It is listed below:

Document title
AM23/67 Collaboration between Manatū Taonga (Ministry for Culture and Heritage) and Te Tari Mātāwaka (Ministry for Ethnic Communities) (dated 14 February 2023)

As with the status reports, this material is provided in excerpt form, as the remainder of the document refers to matters unrelated to your request. There is also a brief mention of in the Briefing to the Incoming Associate Minister. This is publicly available here: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-03/BIM%20-%20Assoc.%20Minister%20for%20Arts%2C%20Culture%20and%20Heritage.pdf>

I have decided to release this information subject to a small amount of information redacted under section 9(2)(a) – *to protect the privacy of natural persons*.

In addition, some information has been deleted where it is not within the scope of your request.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA. I do not consider these considerations outweigh the need to withhold the information.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact oia@mch.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

s9(2)(a)



Glenis Philip-Barbara
Pou Mataaho o Te Hua - Deputy Chief Executive, Delivery