



25 February 2021

Phil Pennington
Radio New Zealand News
By email: Phil.Pennington@rnz.co.nz

Reference: OIA-2020/21-0277

Dear Phil Pennington

Official Information Act request relating to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into attack on Christchurch masjidain

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 22 December 2020. You requested:

- “...1. The latest substantive reviews of the national security framework since March 2019 that has considered any of the six factors (see below) listed by the Roycom*
- 2. Any outcome of any of those reviews in Q1*
- 3. Any recommendations from those reviews*
- 4. Any response to those reviews*
- 5. Evidence of any role within DPMC being assessed for how it was performed in any part of the period 2015-March 2019 in relation to any of the six factors*
- 6. Evidence of any change in role by anyone who held a tier 3 and/or more senior position (middle mgmt. and/or above) pre-March 2019 within the national security framework of DPMC who was involved work involving any of the six factors*
- 7. Evidence of any performance review of anyone noted in Q6, in relation to performance touching on any of the six factors, and any such review’s outcome*
- 8. Pls advise if any employment review or intervention of any kind has been taken or will be taken in relation to or in part or full triggered by the finding of systemic failure; if in senior positions, pls detail these; pls provide evidence of any outcome*
- 9. Evidence of any performance review since March 2019 of any of the discrete groups that make up the national security framework - eg the Security and Intelligence Board, and the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Committee – and the outcome of that*
- 10. Evidence of any change in structure – that has happened or is happening currently - within the DPMC in response to the mosque attacks or the RC report*
- 11. Any and all correspondence within the DPMC and between any of these discrete groups, and between them and the NZ Police, and between them and the SIS, regards the six factors identified by the Roycom or overall systemic failure...”*

I understand you submitted a refined request on 27 January 2021 for the following:

“RNZ’s aim is to establish how DPMC is being held to account, or holding itself to account, for the systemic failures identified by the Royal Commission, as it is not clear.

Pls address or release in full, and in fully searchable format:

- 1. An account of any ways DPMC has held itself to account or been held to account for these systemic failings*
- 2. Pls advise if any employment review or performance review or similar, or other intervention, has been taken or will be taken of anyone’s job/task in relation to, or in part or full triggered by, the finding of systemic failures; if in senior positions, pls detail these; pls provide evidence of any outcome...”*

In considering your request, I would note that the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019’s finding was that *“no Public sector agency involved in the counter-terrorism effort failed to meet required standards or was otherwise at fault in respects that were material to the individual’s planning and preparation for his terrorist attack not being detected”* (christchurchattack.royalcommission.nz/the-report/part-8-assessing-the-counter-terrorism-effort/findings). I am therefore formally refusing the first part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the documents requested do not exist.

With regard to the second part of your request, as the Royal Commission’s finding was that *“no Public sector agency involved in the counter-terrorism effort failed to meet required standards or was otherwise at fault...”*, DPMC has not asked for, and does not anticipate, a specific employment review or similar of staff as a result of the findings of the Royal Commission.

As you will be aware, the Government accepted the findings of the Royal Commission’s report and agreed in principle to all 44 recommendations. Alongside the recommendations, DPMC recognises that there will be opportunities to improve our system and the effectiveness of DPMC’s role in it.

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

This response will be published on DPMC’s website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Tony Lynch
**Deputy Chief Executive
National Security Group**