

6 March 2026



s9(2)(a)

Our ref: OIA 2526-0830

Tēnā koe

s9(2)(a)

Response to your Official Information Act request

I refer to your email of 6 February 2026 to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 10 February 2026, the part of your request relating to the New Zealand Harmony Accord (the Accord) was transferred to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (the Ministry) for response, as the Accord was facilitated by the Ministry. Specifically, you requested:

... all documents and emails about "The New Zealand Harmony Accord"... for the timeframe from the beginning of 2024 to the present.


On 26 February 2026, you clarified your request to the following:

The request is really about any link between the harmony accords and people being reported to the police/government over offensive material, or requests to censor information. All documents that discuss the Harmony Accords in relation to:

- 1. Censorship of threats, hate speech, extremism, offensive material, terrorism;*
- 2. Referrals to police or other government departments over threats, hate speech, extremism, terrorism, etc;*
- 3. The Digital Violence Extremism team.*

For context, the Accord is an agreement signed on 22 July 2025 by Jewish and Muslim organisations. It represents their shared commitment to promoting understanding, rejecting hate, and strengthening social cohesion in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Accord supports the coexistence of diverse perspectives and fosters stronger inter-community relationships across Aotearoa New Zealand.

In response to your request, I can confirm that there are no Accord-related documents or information concerning reporting or referrals to the New Zealand Police or other government agencies, agency censorship of information, or any reference to the Department of Internal Affairs' Digital Violent Extremism team.



These matters were not aspects of the Accord, part of its purpose or development. As such, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Under section 28 of the OIA, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my response relating to this request. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry may publish responses to requests for official information on our website, shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: Ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Edward Firth

Director of Ministerial Services

Proactively released by the Ministry for Ethnic Communities