

17 October 2023

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

## Official Information Act request

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) about disinformation, which we received on 26 September 2023.

You said:

Please supply the following information:

1. All briefing papers, documents, emails and other correspondence related to the \$680,000 grant fund provided to Internet NZ as part of the government's whole of society approach to fighting disinformation.
2. All briefing papers, documents, emails, or other communications, that examine the potential harms from labelling certain views as hate speech or disinformation – including any specific examples or case studies.

In responding to your request, we have weighed up the factors in the OIA, including the purposes in [section 4](#) and the principle of availability in [section 5](#).

## Response to your request

### *Information relating to recent Internet NZ funding*

The Classification Office holds one internal email which mentions the one-off fund recently established by Internet NZ in partnership with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. That email is attached.

The Classification Office does not hold any other information relating to this fund.

### *Information about harms from labelling views as hate speech or disinformation*

The Classification Office does not hold any information about harms from labelling certain views as hate speech or disinformation.

You may be interested in our 2021 research report [The Edge of the Infodemic](#), especially pages 51–53. However, this section of the report is focused on actions

that individuals (that is, consumers of content) may take in response to encountering information that they believe is false or misleading. The report does not discuss suppliers, publishers, or regulators of particular content labelling it as disinformation, or the potential harms or other consequences of doing so.

*Other agencies will respond to your request*

Under section 14 of the OIA, the Classification Office would have been required to transfer the first part of your request to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the second part of your request to the Ministry of Justice, because the information you requested is either held by those agencies or is more closely connected with their functions.

However, we note you have already sent requests to those agencies, and others. We have therefore decided not to transfer your request from our office to those agencies. This is because the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Ministry of Justice, and the other agencies you sent your request to are already required to respond to you separately under the Act in regards to the same information.

### Publication of response

This response may be published on the Classification Office's [website](#). If it is published there, your personal information will be redacted.

### Right of review

You have the right to make a complaint and seek a review by the Ombudsman of this response, and decision to transfer part of your request, under [section 28\(3\) of the OIA](#). Information about this process is available at [ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Thank you for your interest in our mahi.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office

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**From:** Caroline Flora  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 September 2023 2:30 pm  
**To:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: InternetNZ | One-off fund to build resilience to disinformation

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

It'd be great to highlight this briefly in our next newsletter.

Ngā mihi

C



**Caroline Flora** (she/her)  
Chief Censor | Kairāhui Whakaaturanga Poumatua  
**Te Mana Whakaatu | Classification Office**  
Phone : s 9(2)(a)  
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Kia ora. If this email reaches you out of hours, I don't expect a response outside of your working day, it's just a convenient time for me to send an email.

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**From:** s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)@classificationoffice.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 26, 2023 1:33 PM  
**To:** Caroline Flora <s 9(2)(a)@classificationoffice.govt.nz>; s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)@classificationoffice.govt.nz>; s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)@classificationoffice.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** InternetNZ | One-off fund to build resilience to disinformation

“The purpose of this fund is to support efforts by the community to build resilience against the harms of disinformation in Aotearoa. The fund will support initiatives to develop domestic expertise and capability and initiatives for education and community outreach.”

<https://internetnz.nz/funding/grants/>