

2 February 2024

By email:

Tēnā koe,

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), which we received on 18 December 2023.

You said:

Hey I noticed yall banned a book and one of the reasons was because it discussed the pros and cons of different legal statuses of the topic at hand and its impact in different countries.

Could you send me a list of all media banned for, atleast in part, discussing weather something should be illegal or legal, or discussing legal status of something in multiple countries.

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

Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office does not hold a list of the kind you describe. Accordingly, your request is refused under [section 18\(e\)](#) of the OIA.

Additional information

Publications cannot be banned in New Zealand simply for discussing whether something should be legal or illegal. A publication can be banned if it “promotes or encourages criminal acts or acts of terrorism” (per [section 3\(3\)\(d\)](#) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993), and only if a restriction would not be enough to mitigate likely injury to the public good (see [section 3\(1\)](#) of the Act).

Further, parts of publications cannot be banned. When classifying a publication, Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office considers it as a whole. In rare cases, we can ask for films to be cut if that would change the classification of the film. It is up to the film distributor whether to make the cuts. (For more information, see [sections 32](#) and [33](#) of the Act.)

A list of books that have been banned by our office, the [Film and Literature Board of Review](#), and the Indecent Publications Tribunal is publically available.¹ This list is available [alphabetically](#) or [chronologically](#).

If you would like to access records of any publication we have classified, you can search the [Register of Classification Decisions](#). If you would like a copy of any classification decision, please contact us. We are required to supply these on request (under [section 38\(3\)](#) of the Act).

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 under [section 28\(3\) of the OIA](#). Information about this process is available at ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Thank you for your interest in our mahi.

Ngā mihi nui,
Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office

¹ The Tribunal was a predecessor to the Classification Office. It existed from 1964 to 1994.