

# Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



Phil Pennington  
RNZ  
by email: [Phil.Pennington@rnz.co.nz](mailto:Phil.Pennington@rnz.co.nz)

08 DEC 2022

Ref: PMO 2022-311

Tēnā koe Phil Pennington

## Official Information Act request for communications and briefings related to data centres and cloud companies

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 4 October 2022. You requested:

*RNZ requests release in full and in fully searchable format, re the following datacentre operators/builders and/or cloud companies - AWS, Microsoft, DCI, Datagrid, CDC, Lake Prime/Simply Energy, Google Cloud, Salesforce, Catalyst Cloud, CCL, Datacom, for the period from March 1, 2021 till now:*

- *Copy/ies of any briefings or preparation of any kind for the PM prior to any meetings (including in US) or corresponding with any and each of these companies*
- *Copy/ies of any written or other communications of any sort between the PM and any and each of these companies that includes reference to
  - o *Energy supply*
  - o *Energy resilience*
  - o *The govt or any of its agencies as potential customers of similar of a datacentre**
- *Copy/ies of any written or other communications of any sort between the PM and other Minister/their office that includes reference to
  - o *Energy supply*
  - o *Energy resilience*
  - o *The govt or any of its agencies as potential customers or similar of a datacentre**

The timeframe for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 25 working days because consultation was needed before a decision could be made on your request. Following this extension, this office is now in a position to respond.

Within scope of your request are briefing notes prepared for the Prime Minister by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Policy Advisory Group. These briefings are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence, to support her in her role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. These briefings are withheld in their entirety, including titles and dates, under the following sections of the Act:

- 6(a) – the release would likely prejudice the international relations and/or national security of New Zealand
- 6(b) – the release would likely prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand
- 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the confidentiality of advice between Ministers and officials
- 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the expression of free and frank opinion tendered by Ministers and officials.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act.

Additionally, correspondence between this office and the organisations you have specified has been identified as being within scope of your request. Due to ongoing consultation with these organisations, this information is still in the process of being prepared for release, subject to information being withheld under the Act where necessary. We apologise for the delay in processing this information and will provide you with the second tranche of our response in due course.

Lastly, we believe that there is information within scope of your request that is more closely connected with the functions of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). Consequently, we are transferring your request under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to DPMC to respond on any information held within scope of your request.

DPMC has the usual timeframes under the Act from receipt of this transfer to communicate a decision on your request.

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

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Raj Nahna', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Raj Nahna  
**Chief of Staff**