

29 February 2024

s9(2)(a)

Mālo ni s9(2)(a)

## RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA043-2023/24)

On 29 January 2024, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to internal communication about a politician's Guy Fawke's comment regarding the Ministry. I have outlined your specific request and my response below.

*I'm getting in touch under the Official Information Act to please request all internal communication about David Seymour's Guy Fawke's comment regarding the Ministry.*

The Ministry has identified three documents within the scope of your request. Appended to this letter are copies of the correspondence (refer **Appendix 1**).

Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons. I am satisfied that there are no other public interest considerations that render it desirable to make the information withheld under section 9 of the OIA available.

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some of its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter may be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' website. Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your organisation.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: [oia\\_requests@mpp.govt.nz](mailto:oia_requests@mpp.govt.nz).

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Mālō 'aupito

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ali Ajmal', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ali Ajmal  
**Deputy Secretary,  
Office of the Secretary**

**From:** [Charles Laumatia](#)  
**To:** [Lu Avia](#); [Ali Ajmal](#)  
**Cc:** [Michelle Curran](#); [Paul Giles](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Flagging - Comments made by Seymour  
**Date:** Thursday, 17 August 2023 5:06:37 pm

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Awesome Lu. Let them know they can contact me if they want to talk through options.

**Further to Seymour's comments:** DPM Sepuloni has called for him to make an apology. ZB 5pm bulletin.

Cheers,  
Charles

**Charles Laumatia** / Acting Director, Marketing and Communications / s9(2)(a)

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**From:** Lu Avia <lu.avia@mpp.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 4:56 PM  
**To:** Charles Laumatia <charles.laumatia@mpp.govt.nz>; Ali Ajmal <ali.ajmal@mpp.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Michelle Curran <michelle.curran@mpp.govt.nz>; Paul Giles <paul.giles@mpp.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Flagging - Comments made by Seymour

Thanks Charles

Confirming that I did register this as a health and safety /security incident with Kimberley and Leatigaga this afternoon (particularly given the morning's visit). I will await advice from them regarding building security, and flag with the Secretary.

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**From:** Charles Laumatia <charles.laumatia@mpp.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 4:54 PM  
**To:** Lu Avia <lu.avia@mpp.govt.nz>; Ali Ajmal <ali.ajmal@mpp.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Michelle Curran <michelle.curran@mpp.govt.nz>; Paul Giles <paul.giles@mpp.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Flagging - Comments made by Seymour

Afternoon team,

Flagging Seymour's comments this afternoon with you.  
In light of these comments, the following Seymour attracts, developing stories around spend, and the incident this morning with tailgating, I'd recommend the CE's office consider whether security measures are needed.

Newstalk ZB Wellington 4pm

[ACT Party leader] David Seymour is in hot water over comments he's made about the Ministry of Pacific Peoples. It spent \$125,000 on Prezy Cards in the 2021-2022 financial year. The ACT leader said he'd dismantle it if he's in government. Seymour gave [Newstalk] ZB a tongue in cheek description of how that he later clarified, was a joke.

DAVID SEYMOUR Well, in my fantasy, we'd send a guy called Guy Fawkes in there and it'll

be all over. But we'll probably have to have a more formal approach than that.

Finance Minister Grant Robertson didn't see the humour.

GRANT ROBERTSON I think that's gratuitous is what I would say. It's over the top, isn't it?

Cheers,  
Charles

**Charles Laumatia**

Acting Director, Marketing & Communications

**Ministry for Pacific Peoples**

s9(2)(a)

Level 1, 101-103 The Terrace, Wellington

[www.mpp.govt.nz](http://www.mpp.govt.nz)

RELEASED UNDER OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** [Lu Avia](#)  
**To:** [Ali Ajmal](#); [Kimberley Polata-Ahotolu](#)  
**Subject:** FW: comment made my David Seymour re MPP and Guy Fawkes  
**Date:** Friday, 18 August 2023 2:46:44 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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FYI – our **s9(2)(a)** has contacted Gerardine.

**Luisa (Lu) Avia (she/her)**  
Chief Advisor to the Secretary for Pacific Peoples

**s9(2)(a)**

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**From:** **s9(2)(a)**  
**Sent:** Friday, August 18, 2023 12:59 PM  
**To:** Gerardine Clifford-Lidstone <Gerardine.Clifford-Lidstone@mpp.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** comment made my David Seymour re MPP and Guy Fawkes

Kia ora Gerardine

I just wanted to reach out to you to offer my assistance and support to the kai mahi around the comments made by David Seymour, regarding Guy Fawkes.

Please let me know if there is anything i can do to assist or support either yourself and the kaimahi of MPP, whatever that may be.

I am at your service.

Ngā mihi

**s9(2)(a)**



Mānawatia  
a Matariki

**s9(2)(a)**



**From:** [Charles Laumatia](#)  
**To:** [Ali Ajmal](#); [Lu Avia](#)  
**Cc:** [Michelle Curran](#); [Paul Giles](#); [MinisterialServices](#); [Kristine Fiso](#)  
**Subject:** AM Media Round Up  
**Date:** Friday, 18 August 2023 9:19:50 am

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Morning team,

MPP has not featured on ZB's breakfast show this morning. However, it has featured elsewhere:

**From Radio New Zealand Audio, Nathan Rarere interviews David Seymour**

Published 07:02 18/08/2023

NR Let's move to yesterday. Your statement yesterday, said 'my fantasy would be to send a guy called Guy, called Guy Fawkes in there, and it would be all over'. So that's for the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, so Carmel Sepuloni has asked you to apologise. Have you?

DS No, no. Let's get real here. It's clearly a joke. It's a joke I have used dozens, probably hundreds of times about various government departments that people are frustrated with, that have been hugely wasteful. The Ministry of Pacific people only being the latest one that gave one hundred and twenty-one dollars [sic] of pressie cards away - for what purpose nobodies, clear. I think that's really just frankly ridiculous that people are even talking about this. I even said it's clearly a joke for people that needed it spelt out. What have we come to New Zealand, where people actually think this is a serious issue?

NR So you do think there was a better way you could have expressed your opinion? Because I think sometimes there's the power of words that, you know sometimes, perhaps that...people in public positions, they've got to be very careful with what they do, for people that might, you know, might not be as even minded as we are.

DS Well, you could make that argument, but if we did that, we would live in a world where nobody would ever express themselves and say anything, in fact I think today the danger, Nathan, is that people up and down New Zealand - actually across the rest of the western world - are a little bit tired of the cancellation, the censorship, the sense that you're not allowed to express yourself, and if you say the wrong thing the world will come down on you like a pile of bricks. It's what - 57, 58 days away from an election. We've got a government that's wasting money, hand over fist, and your firstly asking me about an obvious joke that has no real importance whatsoever, but hey, look it's your interview. You can ask what you like.

[Christopher Luxon responds to David Seymour's Guy Fawkes fantasy about Pacific ministry | Aug 18 2023 | The Spinoff](#)

Published 06:01 18/08/2023

[First Up - The Podcast, Friday 18 August | RNZ](#)

Transcript above

From Radio New Zealand Audio

Published 06:30 18/08/2023

[Letters to the editor: August 18 | The Post](#)

'Public service largesse'

Published 06:32 18/08/2023

[Deputy PM Sepuloni blasts Seymour's Guy Fawkes 'joke' about Ministry for Pacific Peoples | Newshub](#)

Newshub Live at 6pm yesterday

### **Last night's coverage**

[Barry Soper: ZB senior political correspondent on the kicker in the government's new transport plan - Heather du Plessis-Allan Drive - Omny.fm](#)

Commentary from 1min 40sec

Cheers,

Charles

### **Charles Laumatia**

Acting Director, Marketing & Communications

**Ministry for Pacific Peoples**

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