



8 February 2024

Tēnā koe,

Re: Official Information Act (OIA) Request – protest query

I am writing in response to your X messages dated 21 December 2023 in which you requested the following:

Information requested in message one:

1. *What action has Te Papa taken to investigate the cause of this vandalism?*
2. *How did the vandals gain access and freedom to destroy public property?*
3. *What charges have you laid and have any staff had disciplinary action?*

Information requested in message two:

4. *What actions has Te Papa taken to investigate how this vandalism occurred*
5. *A copy of any documents commissioning an investigation into this incident*
6. *If the investigation is final...any output of that investigation (including reports and meeting notes)*
7. *If the investigation is ongoing, when will it be complete and when will outcomes be made public*
8. *Specifically note: how did the vandals gain access to facilities to be able to undertake this vandalism*
9. *Have charges been laid against the vandals*
10. *What is the approximate cost of their vandalism*
11. *Has any disciplinary action been taken against any public servants/staff, and if so, what*
12. *And in light of recent news that no correction will be immediately made to the display please provide any documentation that has led to that decision, including but not limited to any documentation between te papa and interest groups, te papa and the ministry for culture and heritage (or any other ministry) regarding this, and any documentation regarding this which has gone to, or come back from, ministers.*

Responses to each question are provided below.

1. *What action has Te Papa taken to investigate the cause of this vandalism?*

Regarding the cause or reason for the action, Te Waka Hourua has released their own statements. Te Papa has not taken any further action to investigate the cause.

2. *How did the vandals gain access and freedom to destroy public property?*

Te Papa is a public space, with free entry to all members of the public. A copy of the security report is attached which provides an outline of the actions and movement of members of the protest group around the museum. As a space open to the public Te Papa monitors risks on an ongoing basis and this is balanced with our commitment to ensure people can freely access exhibitions and recreation spaces. Security officers either employed or contracted by Te Papa are responsible for assisting with maintaining an environment that is safe for the public, and escalating concerns when required to the Police. On this occasion Police were contacted. On arrival Police assisted with clearing the space and arrested members of the protest group.

3. *What charges have you laid and have any staff had disciplinary action?*

Information about arrests and charges is publicly available on the Police website:
<https://www.police.govt.nz/news/release/12-protesters-arrested-following-protest-te-papa?ref=/news/districts/776&search=&cmin=2023-12-01&cmax=2024-01-01>

4. *What actions has Te Papa taken to investigate how this vandalism occurred*
5. *A copy of any documents commissioning an investigation into this incident*
6. *If the investigation is final...any output of that investigation (including reports and meeting notes)*
7. *If the investigation is ongoing, when will it be complete and when will outcomes be made public*

As noted above, the security report is attached which outlines the actions that occurred on the day. Te Papa's Incident Management Team (IMT) was activated immediately when the protest action occurred and remained in place until 13 December. The IMT was responsible for reviewing and coordinating health and safety, welfare, risk oversight, review of facilities and collections, tikanga and security considerations following the protest action.

We have recently responded to several other OIA requests about the protest. These are publicly available and include information relevant to your questions about investigation into the incident. Te Papa publishes responses to OIA requests here: <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/about/what-we-do/annual-reports-and-key-documents/official-information-act-oia-responses>

8. *Specifically note: how did the vandals gain access to facilities to be able to undertake this vandalism*

See response to question 2 and material released through responses to OIA requests above.

9. *Have charges been laid against the vandals*

See response to question 3.

10. *What is the approximate cost of their vandalism*

As advised in a media release on 19 December the exhibition *Signs of a Nation* is under review and will be renewed. As decisions have not yet been made about the renewed space or whether this will include an exact replacement of the existing panels Te Papa has not determined the cost of the damage. The media release can be read here: <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/about/press-and-media/press-releases/2023-media-releases/te-papa-renew-exhibition-on-te-tiriti-o>

11. *Has any disciplinary action been taken against any public servants/staff, and if so, what*

No disciplinary action has been taken against any staff.

12. *And in light of recent news that no correction will be immediately made to the display please provide any documentation that has lead to that decision, including but not limited to any documentation between te papa and interest groups, te papa and the ministry for culture and heritage (or any other ministry) regarding this, and any documentation regarding this which has gone to, or come back from, ministers.*

Documentation is attached. Some material is marked out of scope as it is not about decisions relating to the display.

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us please contact OIA@tepapa.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Frances Lawrence
Principal Advisor Strategy, Planning and Performance



Security Report

#874087689

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

Issue Type

Incident: Protest Activity

Status

Closed

Property

Cable Street
55 Cable Street
Wellington, NZ 6011

Location

Default

Reported By

55 Cable Street

Issue Timeline

Created Mon 12/11/23 12:10 PM s 6(d)

Assigned To Mon 12/11/23 12:10 PM s 6(d)

Acknowledged

Arrived At

Closed Mon 12/11/23 12:10 PM s 6(d)

Additional Details

Assigned By s 6(d)

Reported Address 55 Cable Street

Reported Unit Level 4

Problem Address

Problem Unit

Reported Detail

Protesters on L1 and L4, multixts have been sent and police are onsite. They have asked us to clear L4 so they can arrest the protestors. More to follow.

Notes

Mon 12/11/2023 2:37 PM - s 6(d) E

On Monday 11th December 2023, at 11:50hrs approximately Security Officer (SO) staffing the main entrance observed a group of approximately 10 - 15 people gathering on the stairs.

The group were observed to open and display a banner which referenced colonisation, exploitation, Treaty of Waitangi and climate.

Senior Security Officer (SSO) s 6(d) has approached the group and asked them to confirm the following -

- 1) What was the nature of the protest activity?
- 2) What was the expected duration of the protest activity?

A spokesperson for the group informed SSO s 6(d) that the protest was peaceful, that there would be limited impact on the museum and that the protest was not expected to last more than 10 minutes.

SSO s 6(d) has agreed to allow the protest to continue providing that members of the public could safely move from Level 2 to Level 1.

At 11:55hrs approximately s 6(d) 6(d) was staffing the control room and has received a call from an AV Technician who reported observing a member of the public climbing the English version of the Treaty of Waitangi display within Signs of a Nation.

AV Technician has reported that the member of the public was using a angle grinder and spraypaint to deface the display.

It was confirmed by reviewing CCTV that the member of the public had erected a pole and looped climbing equipment over a lighting fixture before climbing the display.

SM s 6(d) and SO s 6(d) have responded and moved to Level 4.

SM s 6(d) has approached a group of approximately 20 people who were wearing hi-visibility clothing and hard hats. The group had formed a cordon around Signs of a Nation.

SM s 6(d) has expressed concerns regarding safety but specifically -

- 1) Paint fumes, being inhaled and/or activating fire detection system within the space.

A member of the group has encouraged SM s 6(d) to move away and stated that the English version of the Treaty of Waitangi could fall.

At this time SM s 6(d) has relayed the instruction to notify Police to the Security Control Room who have contacted Police on 111.

At 12:00hrs approximately Police arrived at Te Papa and moved to Level 4.

Police spoke with SM s 6(d) and advised SM s 6(d) that Level 4 should be cleared to ensure the safety of the public.

SM s 6(d) E has at this time informed members the public within Signs of a Nation that they were subject to a Trespass warning and would need to leave the area.

Police have at this time begun to arrest members of the public within Signs of a Nation.

SM s 6(d), SSO s 6(d), SO s 6(d) and SO s 6(d) have at this time instructed members of the public within Level 4 to leave the area.

At 1245hrs approximately Level 4 was confirmed to be clear of members of the public.

At 1300hrs approximately Police had removed all members of the public associated with protest activity.

Email s 6(d)@tepapa.govt.nz
Email From s 6(d)@tepapa.govt.nz
Email Subject: Cable Street - (S) Incident: Protest Activity
Email Body:
Attaching Issue with Email

Executive Leadership Team Weekly Meeting | Minutes

Meeting details– Taipitopito hui	Friday 15 December 2023 2:00pm – 2:30pm
Location– Tauwāhi	Pōhutukawa Room
Attendees– Rātou i tae ā-tinana	Courtney Johnston (Chair), Arapata Hakiwai, Carolyn Roberts-Thompson, Dean Peterson, Devorah Blumberg, Jake Downing, Puawai Cairns, Kate Camp, Anna Berwick
In attendance	
Apologies– Kāore i tae mai	Lisa Tipping, Sue Quirk

Meeting opened 2:06pm

Minutes

The minutes from the ELT Special meeting on 15 December 2023

Out of scope [Redacted]

Post protest planning and summer preparedness

This hui was called by Co-Leaders to make timely decisions about the damaged Signs of the Nation exhibition panel and gain assurance Te Papa and kaimahi are prepared for the summer period.

Verbal update from Tumu Whakarae and Kaihautū:

- **Out of scope** [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]

Recommendation: That the damaged English language panels in the Signs of a Nation exhibition be removed and stored

Reasoning for recommendation:

- We have accepted the protest action in good faith and not “covered it up”
- The defaced panels are not a designed experience for our visitors such as we would normally provide. This makes it hard for our FOH kaimahi to manage and support questions. We have safety and wellbeing concerns for our kaimahi over the busy summer period should the panels not be removed
- Security monitoring shows the risk of retaliatory actions (e.g. damage to other parts of the exhibition, taonga Māori) that we believe will be exacerbated by the extended presence of the defaced panels.

Counterpoint: removal of the panels may provoke either further action by the original protest group or by others. This risk must be noted against the above concerns, which are felt to be more pressing.

Decision: Agreement obtained to deinstall and store the damaged panels in Signs of the Nation exhibition.



Executive Leadership Team Weekly Meeting | Minutes

Decision: Agreement to establish a small project to be completed before 22 December to complete the deinstallation

Decision: Project Scope and roles were agreed with Puawai Cairns assigned as Project Sponsor.

Action: Anna to provide Puawai a summary of project initiation discussions for delivery.

Action: Puawai to obtain Project Manager support

The ELT meeting closed at 2:38pm



Executive Leadership Team Weekly Meeting | Minutes

Meeting details– Taipitopito hui	Tuesday 19 December 2023 10am-11am
Location– Tauwāhi	Pōhutukawa Room
Attendees– Rātou i tae ā-tinana	Courtney Johnston (Chair), Carolyn Roberts-Thompson, Dean Peterson, Devorah Blumberg, Jake Downing, Puawai Cairns, Kate Camp, Anna Berwick, Lisa Tipping, Sue Quirk
In attendance	
Apologies– Kāore i tae mai	Arapata Hakiwai

Meeting opened 10.05am

Opening acknowledgements

Out of scope [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

IMT activation for 20 December protest action

Verbal update from CJ and DP (IMT Controller):

- **Out of scope** [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- KC has prepared a media statement which has been reviewed by the Board chair stating the defaced panels will stay on display over the summer break, and the exhibition space will be renewed.
- **Out of scope** [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]

[Redacted]

CJ noted that the risk profile around Signs of a Nation and our actions in relation to this space have shifted considerably since the end of last week.

- At the end of last week, we had concerns about retaliatory actions (e.g. damage to the reo Māori panels) or protests against the original protest action
- Over the weekend and with the announcement on Monday from Te Waka Hourua, this has shifted to significant concerns about ongoing protest action from the original groups and others who may ally themselves to the cause, especially given the use of social media to share planned activities

Executive Leadership Team Weekly Meeting | Minutes

(compared to mainstream media, which has been relatively quiet). This is deemed as a more significant risk now.

- Removal of the panels at this time is likely to create more risk of further action and thus pressure on FOH kaimahi and our Security team over the summer period
- We have further assessed the safe removal of the defaced panels. Advice from the PMO is that more time is required to plan and implement the removal, following all our normal project procedures, having a good understanding of what's needed to make good following the deinstallation
- Meetings with Ngā Whetu Ririki and conversations with kaimahi indicate the strength of sentiment around keeping the panels in place and allowing the kōrero happening in the exhibition space to continue and be fostered with planned activities in 2024

Recommendation: That ELT confirm the Co-Leaders decision, based on advice from IMT, that the panels stay in place over the summer period.

This recommendation is brought to ELT noting the Friday 15 December special meeting where the decision as made, on information available at that time, to proceed with deinstalling the panels. We note that the IMT will be making necessary decisions for the management of risk and response to the planned follow-up action on the 20th.

Out of scope

[Redacted content]

[Redacted content]

[Redacted content]

[Redacted content]

The ELT meeting closed at 10.50am