

8 March 2024

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

## Official Information Act request

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) which we received on 1 March 2024.

You said:

Over the last day, images have been circulated of a Palestinian civilian who had been taken hostage by the Israeli Defense Forces, and then murdered by being driven over with a tracked vehicle while he was still alive.  
[link removed]

I am aware that imagery of previous genocidal zionist actions like the mosque attacks committed by Brenton Tarrant in Christchurch in 2019 has been classified as obscene. Are these images of zionist atrocities in Gaza in 2024 also considered obscene, or may they be legally circulated in appropriate settings by those who oppose the support of the Luxon government for these actions?

## Response to your request

Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office (the Office) is responsible for the classification of publications submitted to it under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (the Act). The Office classifies submitted publications as unrestricted, restricted, or objectionable.

Enforcement agencies such as the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), New Zealand Police and New Zealand Customs have the right to submit publications for classification. Where they feel it is necessary they submit online content for classification, including publications from conflict zones.

This image has not been submitted to, or classified by, the Office.

If you are concerned that material you find online may be illegal you can report that material through [DIA's website](#).

**PLEASE NOTE** we strongly discourage using the FYI website to link to or share potentially objectionable material. Not only can this result in the exposure of the

public to harmful material but there are also serious offences under the Act for distribution of objectionable publications.

### **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](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