6 December 2019

Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your request dated 8 November 2019, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, seeking:

- Can you please provide the website names of the other 17% of sites that were blocked.

The response to the request is as follows:

A comprehensive list of all blocked sites is provided below. Please note:

- We do not have statistics about blocked sites prior June 2019 because the Ministry used a different application to control internet access, which has been retired.

- Sites are blocked based on a complex series of rules that are content and context based. As a result, this list includes some sites that are normally accessible.

- The fact that these sites appear on a blocked list does not indicate that the site was accessed directly by a staff member. Staff in most cases do not ‘attempt to access’ these sites, rather they will be accessed without their knowledge by either an application or a webpage advertisement.

An entry in the blocked list will most likely generated by:

- An application or operating system including, for instance, antivirus updates and security patching requests.
- Advertising links on websites, for instance news sites.
- Sites blocked in the process of other sites being blocked
- ICT system testing of blocked site capability

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

Manager Digital and Knowledge