



## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

14 May 2019

John Luke  
fyi-request-10055-6ed43abc@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2018/19-0547

Dear John Luke

### **Official Information Act request: 2018/2019 Meetings Held of the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 11 April 2019. You requested:

*"...I referred to my OIA request last year "OIA-2017/18-0589"*

*May I have a update on*

*The date of the last meeting of the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee for each list- QB and NY.*

*I would like to know the date of the last meeting of 2018NY and also has 2019 QB's last meeting happened?..."*

We understand that your interest is actually in the date of the last meeting for the New Year 2019 list, rather than "2018NY" as set out in your request, as we have already provided the dates of the final meeting for the New Year 2018 Honours list in our response to your earlier OIA request. The date of the last Appointments and Honours Committee meeting that considered the New Year 2019 Honours list took place on Monday 10 September 2018.

The Queen's Birthday 2019 Honours list will be announced on Monday 3 June 2019. I am withholding the information you have requested regarding this list in full under s 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act, to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence and to make it available would be likely to otherwise damage the public interest.

Former Chief Ombudsmen have found that although there is a public interest in the disclosure of information about the Royal Honours system, there is a greater public interest in maintaining the long-standing convention of confidentiality in relation to processes associated with Royal Honours, which is essential to the integrity and continuation of the Royal Honours system.

The release of information about an Honours list that has not yet been announced would compromise the ability to uphold the convention of confidentiality at least for the duration of the list's production.

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

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Webster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Michael Webster  
**Clerk of the Executive Council**