



Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister
Minister of Tourism

Ministerial Services
Minister in Charge of the
NZ Security Intelligence Service
Minister Responsible for the GCSB

23 SEP 2013

Alex Harris
Email: fyi-request-1035-b4eea1c5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex Harris

Follow-up Official Information Act Request for Email Headers for Email Correspondence for the Prime Minister

I refer to your follow-up Official Information request of 26 August 2013 for "... [Email] headers for any of his [Rt Hon John Key's] Ministerial roles (GCSB/SIS, PM, Ministerial Service, Tourism), and to narrow the time period to a single day (say, July 17...."

From the information held on the email accounts used by people contacting the Prime Minister, the total of emails received for 17 July 2013 was 613. These emails will have been sent to Rt Hon John Key in a number of capacities, including his Ministerial roles.

Given the high number of emails potentially relevant to your refined request, to identify each of the emails that fall into the scope of your request, then assess the information requested, make any necessary redactions, consult with individuals as needed, collate and copy that information into the format you have requested after making any necessary redactions would, I believe, still involve substantial collation and research.

Accordingly, your request is declined under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act "*that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.*" In reaching this decision, I first considered the factors contained in sections 18A(1) and 18B of the Official Information Act. However, I did not consider that taking any of these steps would allow the request to be answered.

As noted in my reply to you of 26 August 2013, when members of the general public write to a Minister of the Crown, it is reasonable for them to expect that they are writing to that Minister in confidence and that their correspondence would not be made available to third parties on request. The information you have requested would potentially include information such as names, contact details and subject details. It is in the wider public interest that members of the public are able to write to Ministers and raise issues relevant to that Minister's portfolio responsibilities. Accordingly, even if it were possible to identify the information you were requesting, it is likely that much of the information on email correspondence headers to or from the general public would be withheld.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Eagleson
Chief of Staff