



Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

03 SEP 2019

Hamish Price
fyi-request-10462-54dcb176@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 131-2019

Dear Hamish Price

Official Information Act request for all correspondence between the Prime Minister or her Office and GJ Thompson

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 5 June 2019. You requested:

"I request all text messages, emails, and other written correspondence between you and GJ Thompson, and your office and GJ Thompson, sent or received between your swearing in as minister and today."

Mr Thompson was a member of staff within the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) until 27 February 2019. During his tenure, the volume of information within the scope of your request would be significant. Accordingly your request, as it relates to information prior to 28 February 2019, is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 because the information cannot not be made available without substantial research and collation.

Additionally, there have been a number of staffing changes within the PMO during the period spanned by your request. Any information within the scope of your request that may have been communications between Mr Thompson and another former staff member are no longer held by this office because it is not the type of information that is required to be retained under the Public Records Act 2005.

We have identified one email chain and some text messages from after the date on which Mr Thompson ended his employment within the PMO. The office of each party within the email chain is provided for context.

Please note the meeting on 14 November 2018, referred to in the text message, was a meeting between the Prime Minister, relevant Ministers, and Fletcher Building. We understand that Mr Thompson did not attend that meeting. The details of the meeting were proactively released as part of the Prime Minister's diary release and are publicly available at beehive.govt.nz.

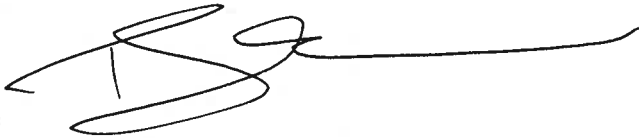
I have decided to release the above communications to you, subject to some information being withheld under the following sections of the Act, as noted in the documents:

- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals;
- Section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the provision of free and frank opinion.

I have also decided to withhold two text messages with staff in full under the above noted sections, and 9(2)(ba), to maintain an obligation of confidence.

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 black ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a long horizontal line.

Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff

From: Prime Minister's Office
To: s9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Change of Executive 2017 transition review
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[02393_Tech-week_d90fa600-9f79-4e58-8694-374a829c5f95.jpg](#)
[Questions for New Ministers.pdf](#)

Hi GJ,

As discussed, the review of the Executive transition period is underway. Keen for you to provide your input, as a key member of the transitional team!

Cheers,

s9(2)(a)

From: Department of Internal Affairs
Sent: Friday, 11 May 2018 4:28 PM
To: Prime Minister's Office
Subject: Change of Executive 2017 transition review
s9(2)(a)

As discussed earlier this week, please find attached a copy of the written questions for the Prime Minister's consideration and input.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries on this document. Have a lovely weekend.

Nga mihi

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 11 May 2018 4:04 PM
To: Department of Internal Affairs
Cc: s9(2)(a)
Subject: Questions for PM Ardern [KPMG_NZ-ACTIVE.FID2018827]
Good afternoon s9(2)(a)

Here are the questions for Prime Minister Ardern – I have attached a pdf version (so that the formatting and fonts won't have compatibility issues).

If there's anything further I can do, please give me a call on my mobile.

Kind regards,

s9(2)(a)

Senior Advisor, Advisory

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10 Customhouse Quay
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Wellington 6140
New Zealand
s9(2)(a)

home.kpmg.com/nz



Click above to read more:

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



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Change of Executive transition transition review

Minister Input – Prime Minister Ardern

The Department of Internal Affairs, through Ministerial Services, is responsible for providing staffing, resources, entitlements, VIP transport, and support to Executive government. This includes planning and managing these processes for incoming and outgoing Ministers during a change of Executive.

We are undertaking a review of transition processes and support provided to Ministers following the 2017 election, with the purpose of identifying opportunities to improve the delivery of services during future changes of Executive. We would appreciate your feedback on your experience and the support you received from Ministerial Services during the transition period (i.e. from the day you were sworn-in until February 2018).

1. Support and assistance during the transition period

- What went well?
- What support provided by Ministerial Services during the transition was most helpful to you as an incoming Minister?

- What could have been better?
- What were any key issues that impacted on your ability to transition into your role?

2. Improving future transition support

- What would a successful change of Executive look like from your perspective?
- What support is most critical for enabling you to function well from day one?
- What additional or different support would you like to have received to improve your transition experience?

3. Satisfaction survey

a) Overall, how satisfied were you with the level of service provided to you by Ministerial Services during the transition?

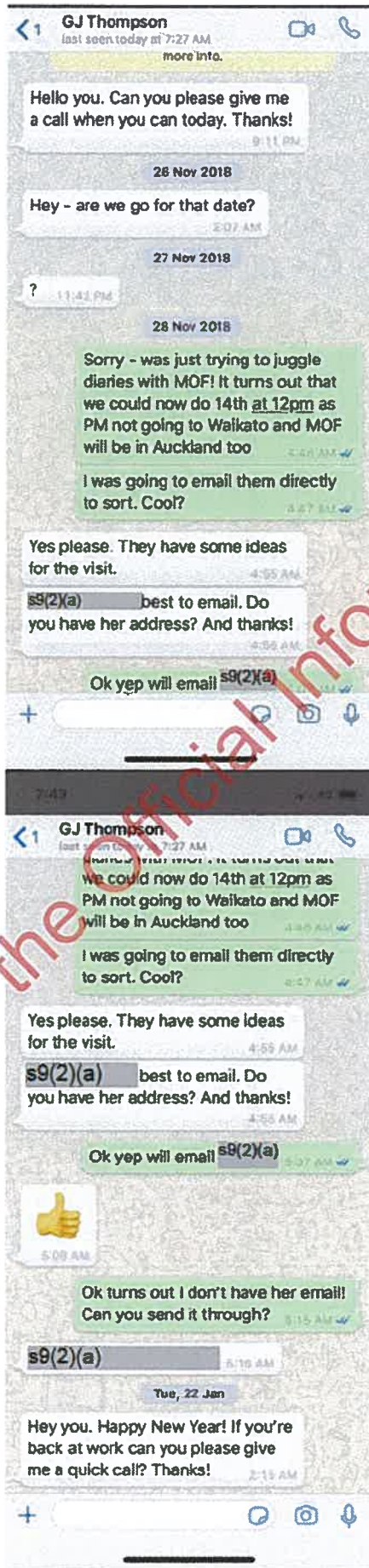
	Completely satisfied	Completely dissatisfied
On day one	----- ----- ----- -----	
After week one	----- ----- ----- -----	
After month one	----- ----- ----- -----	

b) To what degree were your expectations met during the transition in the following areas

	Expectations exceeded	Expectations met	Expectations not met
ICT support	----- ----- ----- -----		
Recruitment processes and support	----- ----- ----- -----		
Entitlements guidance / information	----- ----- ----- -----		

4. Any other comments

Thank you for your input.



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Tue, 26 Mar, 2:08 PM

Hey what's your Parl email address??

s9(2)(a)



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