

Hon Tracey Martin

Minister for Children

Associate Minister of Education

Minister of Internal Affairs

Minister for Seniors



30 AUG 2019

Jemima Traylen
PolicyWorks NZ
fyi-request-10872-fc98b73f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mx Traylen

Thank you for your email of 2 August 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

A copy of any formal advice received from officials relating to your establishment of a BDMRR Act working group of experts

I have interpreted your request as seeking official documentation and correspondence such as Cabinet papers, reports and briefings relating to the establishment of the Working Group for reducing barriers to changing registered sex (the Working Group).

Please find attached information which falls within the scope of your request. The attachments include:

- excerpts of Internal Affairs status reports;
- the Cabinet Appointment and Honours Committee paper to appointment the Working Group;
- The Working Group organisation form;
- Candidate CV summaries of the Working Group members; and
- Appointment letters to Working Group members.

Some information has been withheld from these documents under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- 9(2)(f)(iv), to protect confidentiality of advice; and
- 9(2)(g)(i), to protect the free and frank expression of opinions.

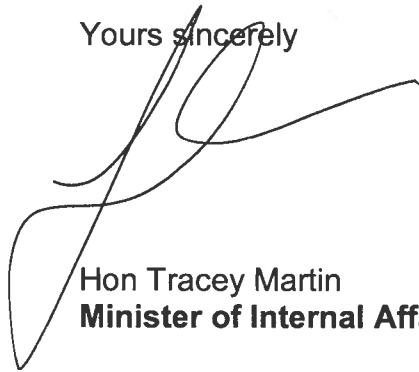
A number of briefings and other papers related to the establishment of the Working Group will be available on the Department's website by 30 September 2019. As such, these are not being provided to you here.

Following my announcement of the establishment of the Working Group on 1 August 2019, I noted that the Registrar-General would from that date waive fees associated with applying to change registered sex on a birth certificate. This work is noted in some of the material provided to you here and is also noted in some material soon to be publicly available. However, the ultimate decision to waive the fees sits with the Registrar-General and not myself.

As is required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding this information are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tracey Martin', written over the words 'Yours sincerely'.

Hon Tracey Martin
Minister of Internal Affairs

Coversheet Appendix A: Documents for OIA request

#	Name of document	Document date	Release or withhold	Withholding grounds
1.	Internal Affairs Status report excerpts	5 March 2019 – 23 July 2019	Partial Release	S 9(2)(a) – protect the privacy of natural persons; S 9(2)(g)(i) – to protect the free and frank expression of opinions.
2.	Cabinet paper: Working Group for reducing barriers to changing registered sex: Appointments	18 July 2019	Partial Release	S 9(2)(f)(iv) – to protect the free and frank expression of opinions.
3.	The Working Group Organisation Form	18 July 2019	Full Release	
4.	Candidate CV summaries of Working Group members	18 July 2019	Partial Release	S 9(2)(a) – protect the privacy of natural persons; and S 9(2)(g)(i) – to protect the free and frank expression of opinions.
5.	Appointment letters to the Working Group members	29 July 2019	Partial Release	S 9(2)(a) – protect the privacy of natural persons.