

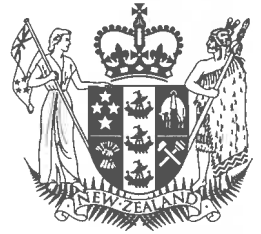
Hon Tracey Martin

Minister for Children

Minister of Internal Affairs

Minister for Seniors

Associate Minister of Education



21 AUG 2019

Rich Seager

Fyi-request-10877-00b46ce5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Seager

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

1. *Did you advise any 'gender critical' groups or persons of your intention to set up such a group?*
2. *Did you invite any 'gender critical' participation in such a group?*
3. *How will you be making sure that you receive input and advice from 'gender critical' voices on this very charged topic?*
4. *Please provide all correspondence in all forms (email, telephone, text, voice etc) on this issue from January 1st 2019 to the current date.*

The Working Group was set up to assist people facing barriers to changing the registered sex on their birth certificates. As you are aware, I deferred the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill (the Bill) in February 2019 due to inadequate consultation on clauses added by Select Committee that would allow individuals to change the registered sex on their birth certificates through an administrative process based on self-identification. At the time, I notified Cabinet and the public of my intention to make practical improvements to the current process to change registered sex. The Working Group will provide advice on how to reduce barriers to changing registered sex via the current process.

To ensure that improvements meet the needs of impacted individuals, the group includes representatives from the transgender and intersex community and medical and legal experts. I did not consult with any "gender-critical" groups or persons or invite such groups to participate in the Working Group as these groups are unlikely to be affected by the practical challenges facing people wishing to change their registered sex. Following my press release on 1 August 2019, I wrote to interested parties, including Speak up for Women and Lesbian Rights Aotearoa, to update them on the progress made following the deferral of the Bill. Please note that the self-identification clauses of the Bill are outside the scope of the Working Group's work.

In response to part three of your request, the work I have initiated to resolve issues with the self-identification clauses will involve equal consideration of opposing views on self-identification. Depending on the outcomes of work on the legal issues raised by Crown Law relating to the self-identification clauses, there may also be an opportunity for wider public engagement beyond the transgender and intersex community.

The Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) has proactively released the paper presented to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee which established the Working Group. This paper can be found on the Department's website www.dia.govt.nz, by selecting Publications and Reports, then Proactive Releases and clicking Ministerial Papers.

Other briefings and papers related to the Working Group are currently being prepared for proactive release by the Department. We expect to have these published on the Department's website by the end of September 2019.

In response to point four of your request, your request for all forms of correspondence about the Working Group cannot be provided to you without substantial collation or research. I am therefore refusing part four of your request under section 18(f) of the Act. If you are interested in correspondence related to particular issues on work around the Bill or the Working Group, you are welcome to submit a new request under the Act.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to make a complaint to an Ombudsman. The contact address is: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Hon Tracey Martin
Minister of Internal Affairs