

Paul  
fyi-request-11380-d6af8a7d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 78507

Dear Paul

### **Official Information Act request**

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request made to the State Services Commission on 7 October 2019 regarding the costs relating to the administration of the Act:

*I'd also like to request whether or not the SSC has looked at how the OIA could be reformed to ensure it is not burdensome on the taxpayers' dollar*

On 11 October 2019 you were informed that the second part of your request was transferred to the Ministry of Justice to respond to, as the Ministry of Justice administers the Act.

In 2012, the Law Commission published *The Public's Right to Know* on the functioning of both the Act and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1982. The report's recommendations included proposals for significant legislative change. Chapter 9 of the report recommended changes to the Act to help reduce the burden on agencies when dealing with certain types of requests e.g. requests requiring substantial collation and research and "vexatious" requests.

The Government response to the report focused on largely operational improvements to the Act. The report and Government response is available on the Law Commission's website [www.lawcom.govt.nz](http://www.lawcom.govt.nz)

Earlier this year the Ministry invited submissions on the Act from individuals and organisations. We asked people what they consider to be the key issues with the Act, whether they think these relate to legislation or practice, and what reforms they think would make the biggest difference.

The purpose of the engagement was to inform a decision by Government on whether to progress a review of the Act. We received 289 submissions from individuals and organisations. We have analysed the submissions, noting emerging themes, such as quality, timeliness, attitude and culture, and leadership and oversight.

The next step in our process has been to provide advice to the Minister of Justice.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you have the right to complain to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. Any complaints must be in writing. The contact details for the Office of the Ombudsman are [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PP. C Greaney', written in a cursive style.

Caroline Greaney

**General Manager, Civil and Constitutional, Policy**