



Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

21 FEB 2020

Liam Hehir

Email: fyi-request-12097-e649635c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 2020-006

Dear Liam Hehir

Official Information Act request relating to cessation of construction at Ihumātao

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 27 January 2020. You requested:

"...In July last year, various media outlets reported that you had, as prime minister, ordered a halt to any construction work at Ihumātao. One example, of several, was the New Zealand Herald headline "Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern halts building works on Ihumātao development site until solution found." I would like you to confirm for me whether or not you did order a stop to construction work in your official capacity or simply announced a voluntary cessation of work on behalf of the registered owners. If it was an order, what was the legal basis for this order?..."

Last year the Prime Minister announced the voluntary cessation of work by Fletcher Building following discussions between members of the Government, Fletcher Building, Auckland Council, and iwi. The Government is continuing to work with all parties to reach a resolution. The Government is mindful of Fletcher Building's position as the legal owner of the land, and a satisfactory settlement with them is an important part of a resolution.

For completeness, 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 blue ink, appearing to be 'Raj Nahna', written over a white background.

Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff