

Rt Hon Winston Peters

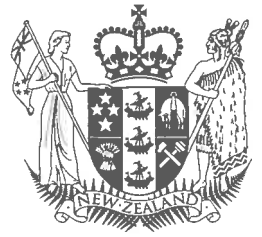
Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control

Minister for State Owned Enterprises

Minister for Racing



17 MAR 2020

Lance O'Riley

fyi-request-12266-e1128014@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Lance O'Riley

This letter concerns your Official Information Act request, received 19 February 2020, for the following:

"I would like to request the following information. This relates primarily in relation to your statement to Peter Williams.

"Look, Mr Williams, I know that, we took the photograph just to prove that's the behaviour going on,"

(1) Given your role as the Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand, Did yourself or anyone under your responsibility have any role in taking the photographs of Lester Grey or journalists he was allegedly meeting with regardless of the capacity to which the person was acting.

(2) Any communications or emails which specifically refer to or mention the photograph taken which have been sent to or from your ministerial email address, or any email address which is or has been used for ministerial purposes. For this part of the question you are of course free to redact the names of persons sending or receiving emails, so long as such a redaction is required under law.

Given your statement clearly implies that you or someone to which you hold a personal relationship had a role in taking these photographs and the implications this holds for the freedom of press in this country I am confident you will release this information at the soonest possible time."

The statements you have identified were made in my capacity as New Zealand First leader, not as a minister. Your request is declined under section 18(e) of the Act: the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist. No such

information, if it were to exist, would be considered 'official information', as affirmed by the Ombudsman's opinion, case numbers 467651 and 467523.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Winston Peters', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Deputy Prime Minister