



18 MAR 2020

DOIA 1920-1275

Ben McConnell

fyi-request-12275-f3a07e93@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ben

Thank you for your email of 19 February 2020 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry) requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Can you please provide any official or quasi-official documents on weathertightness ("leaky buildings") between 1985 and 2005?

In particular, documents that address building trades workmanship quality/training, the use of untreated timber in buildings, and cladding materials in the market

On 28 February 2020, the Ministry advised you that your request would require substantial research and collation and could be refused under section 18(f) of the Act. The Ministry subsequently invited you to narrow your request, to which you responded:

- 1. The Hunn report and the select committee report would be useful. It will not be necessary to provide select committee submissions.*
- 2. I am specifically looking for reports, consultation documents, or working documents in relation to any of the Building Acts or Building Amendment Acts between 1985 and 2005. Especially, if the Building Industry Authority of the Department produced any reports or consultation documents in relation to Weathertightness.*

In response to the first part of your request, please find attached a copy of parts one and two of the "Hunn" report (*Report Of the Overview Group on the Weathertightness of Buildings to the Building Industry Authority*), which have been released to you in full. For the select committee report on the weathertightness of buildings in New Zealand, please visit www.parliament.nz and search "Inquiry into the Weathertightness of Buildings in New Zealand (I.5B) (25 March 2003)".

The Government's response to this report is titled *Government Response to Report of the Government Administration Select Committee on Inquiry into the Weathertightness of Buildings in New Zealand, presented to the House of Representatives in accordance with Standing Order 248 (A.5)* and can be obtained from the New Zealand Parliamentary Library.

I am refusing the second part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as it would require substantial research and collation. While the Ministry appreciates your attempt to narrow your request, the information you have asked for is held across a large number of both historical and contemporary files. To provide you with copies of the information would require staff to spend a substantial amount of

time researching, searching for and reviewing files. This would remove Ministry staff from their core duties and, therefore, the greater public interest in the effective and efficient administration of the public service would not be served. I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in both cases, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

Please be aware that you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone: 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew McDermott', with a stylized, cursive script.

Matthew McDermott
Team Leader, Building Policy
Building System Performance