

28 AUG 2020

Shane Gibson
fyi-request-13291-1d1bc01b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 82798

Dear Mr Gibson

Official Information Act request: OIA requests

Thank you for your email of 13 July 2020 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information from the Ministry of Justice correspondence database related to requests under the Act. Specifically you requested:

Please provide an extract of data from the system you currently use to track information requests submitted under the Official Information Act 1982. The extract should be in a machine readable form. This means either via a publicly accessible API or file in csv or JSON format. The extract should have the following details in a single row for each request that was submitted:

- *The title of the request.*
- *The date your organisation received the request*
- *The date of the final response from your organisation to that request, or the date you closed the request*

To reduce the effort required by your organisation I am requesting records for the date range that the data is available in your OIA tracking system. For example if your OIA tracking system only holds two years of records then I am requesting data for those two years.

On 17 July 2020, the Ministry contacted you seeking to rescope your request as the almost 12,000 OIA items in our database going back to 2006 contained significant amounts of personal information. Later that day you agreed to limit your request to the last five years' of completed data, detailing the subject line, date received and date completed. As the Ministry sought under section 15 of the Act to clarify and rescope of your request, the revised request became a new request for the purposes of the Act, requiring the Ministry to respond by 14 August 2020.

However, due to the amount of consultation required on the more than 4,000 items remaining, a response could not be reasonably be made within the revised time limit and on 10 August 2020, Jan Morison, Team Leader Ministerial Relations and Services wrote to you extending the time frame to respond to your request by 10 working days to 28 August 2020.

As you requested the information in a machine readable format, please find attached a csv file showing the subject line, the date the request was received and the date the response was sent or the file was closed. We have also included the Ministry of Justice's ID number for ease of future reference.

Some information has been withheld or refused under the following sections of the Act:

- Because its release might prejudice the maintenance of the law [s6(c)]
- To protect the privacy of natural persons [s9(2)(a)]
- To protect legal professional privilege [s92(h)]
- To allow for the free and frank expression of opinions [s9(2)(g)(i)] or
- Because its release would be contrary to the provisions of the law or may constitute a contempt of court [s18(c)].

I am satisfied there are no other public interest considerations that render it desirable to make the information withheld under section 9 available.

I need to also note that on 1 January 2019, the Office for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, which had previously been a business unit within the Ministry, became a separate departmental agency. Therefore, no information on completed responses for which it was responsible have been included after that date. Should you require information about Te Arawhiti's completed responses after 1 January 2019, they can be contacted at officialcorrespondence@tearawhiti.govt.nz.

It should be noted in calculating due dates under the Act, the Ministry must respond as soon as possible, and no later than 20 working days unless, as for example with this request, the Ministry extends the timeline to respond. The definition of a 'working day' is outlined in section 2(1) of the Act but does not include:

- Saturday, Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Anzac Day, Labour Day, the Sovereign's birthday, and Waitangi Day; and
- if Waitangi Day or Anzac Day falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, the following Monday; and
- a day in the period commencing with 25 December in any year and ending with 15 January in the following year.

If you require any further information, please contact the Media Team by email at: media@justice.govt.nz

If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Anouk Alexander

Deputy Secretary - Strategy, Governance and Finance