

Office of the Prime Minister



Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

29 SEP 2020

Matthew Hooton

By email: fyi-request-13635-b6df59e3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 2020-164

Dear Matthew Hooton

Official Information Act request relating to a letter from Rt Hon Winston Peters

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request made to Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern on 1 September 2020. You requested:

"The Deputy Prime Minister has told media that he wrote to you on 19 March outlining how he believed New Zealand's response to Covid-19 should be managed.

This tweet refers: <https://twitter.com/henrycooke/status/1300621040125534209>.

Under the OIA, I request the letter..."

I have determined that the information you requested is correspondence from Rt Hon Winston Peters to Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern in their respective capacities as political party leaders, and is not official information as defined by the Act. As you may be aware, in so far as the Act relates specifically to this office, only information that is held by Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern as a Minister of the Crown is deemed to be official information. Information held in any other capacity, such as Leader of the New Zealand Labour Party, is not official information and falls outside the scope of the Act.

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 read 'Raj Nahna'.

Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff