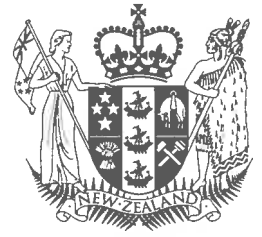


Rt Hon Winston Peters



Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control

Minister for State Owned Enterprises

Minister for Racing

29 SEP 2020

Matthew Hooten

fyi-request-13665-dd2cf43e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Matthew Hooten

This letter concerns your Official Information Act request, received 4 September 2020, for the following:

"The NZ Herald has reported that you "pushed for the army to be called in, masks to be worn and independent oversight of the Covid response, two days before New Zealand's first lockdown in March".

Under the OIA, I request all written information in the week before the first lockdown that supports this statement."

The information you have requested was not produced in any ministerial capacity. Rather, it was a communication between party leaders, and as such, is not captured by the definition of 'official information' as intended in the Act. This is a distinction that has been consistently reaffirmed by the Ombudsman.

Therefore, your request is declined under section 18(e) of the Act, as no official information exists that is in scope of your request.

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

Yours sincerely

PP . Rt Hon Winston Peters
Deputy Prime Minister