

21 December 2020

45 Pipitea Street
Wellington
Phone 0800 25 78 87
dia.govt.nz

G S
fyi-request-14108-dce9db47@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe G S

Your Official Information Act request, reference OIA20/21-0275

Thank you for your email of 11 November 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *any advice provided to the Minister of Local Government from the 2017 election through to today on Māori wards in local government; and*
- *any internal policy development documents created since the 2017 election through to today on Māori wards in local government."*

Your request captures 13 documents concerned with providing or developing advice on Māori wards in local government. A list of these documents is attached as **Appendix A**. Of the 13 documents, I am releasing 12 documents to you in full or in part.

Work on Māori wards in local government is on-going, and final policy decisions have not been made. I am therefore withholding one of the 13 documents in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act – to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials.

Some information has also been omitted as it falls outside the scope of your request.

As is required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding information from the documents provided with this response are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Anita Balakrishnan
Director | Tumuaki, Ministerial Advice, Monitoring, and Operations

Appendix A: Documents for OIA request

Key: W = Withhold in full; P = Release in part; R = Release in full

#	Name of document	Document date	Release or withhold	Sections under the Act
1.	Information Briefing: Māori representation in Local Government, Māori wards, and the Independent Māori Statutory Board	5 December 2017	R	
2.	Briefing: Auckland Council representation and Māori wards	29 January 2018	R	
3.	Briefing: Draft Cabinet paper: Modernising voting and improvements to the regulatory framework for local elections	2 March 2018	R	
4.	Regulatory Impact Analysis: Proposal to remove membership requirement on Auckland Council	5 March 2018	R	
5.	Briefing: Final draft Cabinet paper – Modernising voting and improvements to the regulatory framework for local elections	8 March 2018	R	
6.	Briefing: Working paper on the Auckland Council membership requirement	15 March 2018	R	
7.	Briefing: Final draft Cabinet paper – Modernising voting and improvements to the regulatory framework for local elections	15 March 2018	R	
8.	Briefing: Māori electoral representation on local councils	27 March 2018	R	
9.	Briefing: Māori representation on Environment Canterbury	27 March 2018	R	

#	Name of document	Document date	Release or withhold	Sections under the Act
10.	Briefing: Final Cabinet Paper: Mechanisms for Māori participation in local government	28 May 2018	R	
11.	A3: Policy Development – Appendix A: Potential future directions for Māori representation and participation in local government	28 May 2018	R	
12.	Policy Development – Updated poll tables	20 August 2019	R	
13.	Policy development - Māori ward options	6 November 2020	W	9(2)(f)(iv) – to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials.