

12 January 2021

Ross Francis

By Email: fyi-request-14217-7caf318b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Francis

Official Information Request dated 29 November 2020

I refer to your request for information to the Ministry of Justice (**Ministry**) under the Official Information Act 1982 (**Act**) on 29 November 2020. We provided an initial response on 7 January 2021. Thank you for your further email of 8 January 2021.

As explained in our letter of 7 January 2021, we understood the remaining parts of your request to relate to:

- “[...] all information held by the Ministry about Professor Ceci, including any discussions by officials about him”; and
- “[...] all information held by the Ministry about Dr Zelas between 1 July 2003 and 30 June 2004 (inclusive). What comments, if any, has the Ministry articulated in respect of Dr Zelas’ conduct, impartiality or independence as an expert witness”.

In your recent email you have advised that you are withdrawing the part of your request relating to Professor Ceci.

In respect of the remaining questions relating to Dr Zelas, we also understand from your email that you did not intend your request to be for all information held about the individuals named above and that you are seeking specific information. As explained in our letter, our initial reading of your request was that the second part of your question relating to Dr Zelas was not limited by any date range and would therefore require a review of all potentially relevant files across the Ellis case for comment by the Ministry. If this is incorrect, and that question was also intended to relate only to the period of 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, please can you confirm. This would significantly reduce the volume of information which would need to be searched through for this request.

Finally, you asked whether there is any information in the minds of officials that would fall within the scope of your queries. As has previously been advised to you no official involved in the assessment of Peter Ellis’ case still works for the Ministry. There is no information in the minds of officials relevant to your above queries about the case.

Once you have confirmed the scope of the remaining parts of your request, we will perform an initial assessment of the work required. If we decide that the request should be granted subject to a charge for the supply of information, we will advise you of that decision and provide an estimate of the charge. Otherwise, we will respond with the outcome of your request.

Yours sincerely



Jeff Orr
Chief Legal Counsel