



Ref: DOIA 2021-1438

4 March 2021

Andrew Chen  
fyi-request-14603-70544722@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Andrew Chen

Thank you for your email of 4 February 2021 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“a list of vendors that have provided data science services to MBIE in the last three years.”*

On 19 February you responded to MBIE’s request for clarification around what you meant by data science services with the following:

*“Without being too prescriptive, I am referring to vendors that are conducting data cleaning, analysing data held by MBIE, building mathematical models, and/or developing algorithms for analytical or operational use, including through the use of statistical methods or machine learning. However, I would not want this to narrow the scope too much and vendors of associated services should be included. I’m not looking to create a lot more work for you and your team, so any finance codes that relate to consulting or contracting that has to do with data would be appropriate.”*

I am writing to notify you that I am extending the timeframe for responding to your request under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

We will now respond to your request on or before 6 April 2021, which is an extension of 20 working days.

You have the right to seek investigation and review of my decision by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

Edgar Tulepu  
**Senior Ministerial Advisor**  
Corporate, Governance and Information

