

22 APR 2014

Alex Harris
fyi-request-1555-280daf94@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H201401073

Dear Mr Harris

Interim response, and extension of time for responding in full to your request for official information

Thank you for your request for official information, received by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 21 March 2014. You requested all advice and communications in the past year relating to the Problem Gambling Foundation's funding. This request relates to the Ministry's recent Request for Proposals (RFP) for services to prevent and minimise gambling harm.

I understand that you have already been advised that the PricewaterhouseCoopers Probity Report was posted to the Ministry's website on 4 April 2014.

I have decided to provide you with an interim response to your request, and to extend the period of time that the Ministry will take to provide you with a full response. I have decided to do this because your request is for a large quantity of information and necessitates a search through a large quantity of information, and meeting the original time limit would unreasonably interfere with the Ministry's operations. I am permitted to make this extension under section 15A(1)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982.

The period of the extension is until 9 May 2014.

The information being released with this letter consists of:

- the documents provided to the members of the RFP assessment panel before its first meeting on 30 September 2013:
 - the evaluation pack cover document
 - the summary log of proposals received
 - the summary of individual question weightings
 - the scoring system sheet
 - the example score summary sheet
 - the electronic pre-scoring sheets
 - the conflict of interest declaration form
- a one page summary sheet of the skillsets each panel member brought to the process

- the minutes of the RFP assessment panel
- a memorandum dated 27 January 2014 from the chair of the panel seeking approval to begin contract negotiations on the basis of the panel's recommendations
- a memorandum dated 4 March 2014 from the Team Leader of the Gambling Harm Minimisation Team seeking approval to begin contract negotiations on a slightly different basis from the panel's recommendations.

I have decided to completely withhold the proposals themselves. Similarly, I have decided to withhold all evaluative material. This includes information about assessment of the proposals against the evaluation criteria (with the exception of a few that were assessed as not meeting minimum standards and a few that were the subject of relatively minor administrative problems), and any breakdown of scoring.

I am conscious of the principle of availability set out in section 5 of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). However, I have decided that it is necessary to withhold this information to enable the Ministry to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities and contract negotiations, as permitted by sections 9(2)(i) and 9(2)(j) of the Act. I have also withheld a little information to protect the privacy of a natural person, as permitted by section 9(2)(a) of the Act. I have decided that my reasons for withholding this information are not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

I have attached a schedule of the documents being released to you with this interim response and the grounds for any redactions.

You have the right to complain to the Ombudsman about my decisions to withhold some information, and to extend the time for providing you with a full response to your request.

Information about making a complaint is on the website of the Office of the Ombudsman (www.ombudsman.parliament.nz). You can also contact the Ombudsman on freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Cathy O'Malley
Deputy Director-General
Sector Capability and Implementation