

30 January 2015

Mr Bruce Van Essen  
Fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Van Essen

### Official Information Act Request

On 1 October 2014, you wrote regarding ACC's decision to withhold names from Research Ethics Committee (REC) minutes, which were provided to you on 24 September 2014. You asked that these documents be provided to you with names included, and referred to an Ombudsman decision which regarded a complaint about an agency withholding names.

ACC's revised decision on the REC minutes is to release them with the names of committee members (ACC and non-ACC members), and senior ACC staff (tier two level and above).

Please note that ACC's policy is to release only names of senior ACC staff (tier two and above). ACC therefore consulted with a number of staff (former and current) identified in these documents before issuing a new decision, and is only releasing the names of those people who provided consent.

ACC continues to decline to provide the names of other ACC staff members, i.e. those who are less senior and are not involved in making research ethics decisions; and those of people external to ACC. However, the names of their organisations (universities, businesses etc) and job titles are included.

ACC's decision to decline this information is made pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982. As noted in ACC's letter of 24 September 2014, if you are unhappy with ACC's response to your information request you may make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely



Terence Routledge  
**Senior Advisor, Government Services**

Encl: *Research Ethics Committee minutes, 2009 - 2010*