

22 July 2014

Katherine Raue
fyi-request-1802-cf953dd3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Raue

Official Information Act 1982 request: Scott Watson

Thank you for your request, received through the FYI.org.nz website on 10 July 2014, seeking, under the Official Information Act 1982 ("OIA"):

"...all information relating to Scott Watson's application for the Royal prerogative of Mercy."

Mr Watson applied for the Royal prerogative of mercy in December 2008. From that date until December 2012, Mr Watson and his representatives submitted a significant amount of additional material in support of his application. It follows that the Ministry holds a substantial amount of information that falls within the scope of your request.

In light of this, please consider refining your request. If it is not refined, it is likely to be refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation.

You may find the following material, which is publicly available, of assistance when considering whether and how to refine your request:

- The book "Trial by Trickery" and the DVD entitled "Murder on the Blade?" written and made respectively by journalist Mr Keith Hunter. This material formed an important part of Mr Watson's application.
- Ms McDonald's advice on Mr Watson's application dated March 2011 and March 2013. The advice provides an overview of the key evidence submitted by and on behalf of Mr Watson in support of his application, and details Ms McDonald's consideration of that evidence, and her conclusions in respect of it.
- The Ministry's report on Mr Watson's application dated 10 June 2013. The report provides a summary of Mr Watson's application and Ms McDonald's consideration of it. It also details the process for considering Mr Watson's application and the Ministry's advice on the application.

Ms McDonald's advice and the Ministry's report can be found on the Ministry's website at:
www.justice.govt.nz/services/miscarriages-of-justice/scott-watson-application.

Yours sincerely



Tania Warburton
Acting Chief Legal Counsel
Office of Legal Counsel