

14 August 2014

Grace Haden  
[Fyi-request-1803-b882057b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:Fyi-request-1803-b882057b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Haden

### **Discrepancies between the Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

Thank you for your email of 10 July 2014 seeking under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“...why the New Zealand bill of rights does not conform to the universal declaration of human rights and explain why do people in the civil jurisdiction and family courts do not have the right to “full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and Why section 25 only provides for people charged with an offence and not for any one appearing in court in civil/family jurisdictions.”*

The Ministry of Justice does not hold any specific documents within the scope of your request. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act. However, I can provide some additional information that may help.

Section 27 of the Bill of Rights Act affirms the right to natural justice by any tribunal or other public authority. The requirements of natural justice depend on the circumstances of the particular case but can include the right to be heard by an impartial tribunal. You can find more information about the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act and natural justice in the guidelines to the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act on the Ministry of Justice website: [www.justice.govt.nz](http://www.justice.govt.nz).

You may wish to contact a community law centre about the defamation claim filed against you. Community law centres provide initial legal advice free of charge. More information is available at: [www.communitylaw.org.nz](http://www.communitylaw.org.nz).

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



David Crooke  
**Acting Policy Manager**  
**Civil Law and Human Rights**