

17 August 2022

Andrew Ecclestone
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Our ref: OIA 97762

Tēnā koe Mr Ecclestone

Official Information Act request: Consultation with political parties

Thank you for your response of 5 August 2022. I apologise for the delay in responding.

When we noted that the scope of parts 4 and 6 of your request of 20 July 2022 was very broad, we were meaning that it effectively encompassed everything to do with the previous OIA requests, of which there have been six.

The majority of the information within the scope of parts 4 and 6 of your request is emails. There are a large number of emails (in the hundreds) to do with administrative matters, discussions about the substantive issues regarding release (which are relatively complex), and consultation with the Minister's office.

If you agreed to receive a summary of the Ministry of Justice's reasons for withholding the information, we could also include a summary of consultation undertaken to reach that view (particularly with the Minister's office) to the extent that we would release that information in response to your full request (we would advise what we were withholding in that respect).

You would, of course, have the opportunity to make a more targeted request for underlying information once you received the summary.

In the meantime, I am extending the timeframe for responding to your original request by 40 working days under section 15A of the Act to 12 October 2022. A response cannot reasonably be made within the original statutory timeframe because your request is for a large quantity of information and meeting the original time limit would unreasonably interfere with the Ministry's operations. We would endeavour to respond well within the extended period if you chose to continue with your original request.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to complain to the Ombudsman about the decision to extend the time for responding to your request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Jenna Bottcher Hansen
Manager, Ministerial Relations and Services