



18 December 2014

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Joshua Grainger
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Dear Mr Grainger

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 25 September 2014 to Hon Hekia Parata, Acting Minister for Ethnic Affairs, which was transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) for reply on 25 September 2014. You requested:

[A]ny emails sent and received by the Minister for Ethnic Affairs (Judith Collins MP) from the 1st of July 2014 until the 7th of July 2014.

I apologise for the time it has taken to respond to you. As Hon Judith Collins is no longer a Minister your request was transferred to the Department's Ministerial and Secretariat Services as the administrator of Ministerial offices. However the Department has been in consultation with the Office of the Ombudsman as it is unclear if information gathered during Ms Collins' time as a Minister is held on Ms Collins' behalf by the Department or the Parliamentary Service, and therefore if the Department has the authority to access this information.

The matter is still under consideration by the Ombudsman and therefore I am unable to provide you with a response to your request within the extended timeframe. I am aware that this is deemed to be a refusal under section 28(4) of the Act, however please note that the Department will be in contact with you once this issue has been resolved.

Please note that should the Department be found to have control of the information, it is likely that we will ask you to refine your request as it may be of assistance if you could more closely define the particular documents you require.

If you have any concerns regarding my response to your request these can be directed to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman can be contacted at PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or online at: <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz>.

Yours sincerely

Tim McIvor
General Manager (Acting)
Ministerial and Secretariat Services

